UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/928
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Noting with regret the death of Judge Andrès Aguilar Mawdsley on 24 October 1995,

Noting further that a vacancy in the International Court of Justice for the remainder of the term of office of the deceased Judge has thus occurred and must be filled in accordance with the terms of the Statute of the Court,

Noting that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Statute, the date of the election to fill the vacancy shall be fixed by the Security Council,

Decides that the election to fill the vacancy shall take place on 28 February 1996 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

95-34171 (E) 071195 081195

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/929
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the steps taken in order to establish the whereabouts of Mr. David Rhode, journalist of the Christian Science Monitor.

On 4 November 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, in the presence of Mr. Richard Holbrooke, United States Assistant Secretary of State, and Mr. John Menzies, United States Ambassador in Sarajevo, Dr. Nikola Koljević, Vice-President of the Republic of Srpska, informed the Rhode family that Mr. Rhode had been sentenced to two weeks in prison because of illegal border crossing in the territory of the Republic of Srpska and the possession of false documents. At the same time, Dr. Koljević indicated that the President of the Republic of Srpska, Dr. Radovan Karadžić, taking into account the request of the United States authorities and as a sign of goodwill during the peace negotiations, would immediately pardon Mr. Rhode.

On the same day, Mr. Rhode was allowed to speak with his family on the phone. He told his family and Dr. Koljević that he had not been harassed in any way and that he had received visits from representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/725
S/1995/930
7 November 1995

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 42 and 44
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/62 D of 14 December 1994 on the question of Palestine.

2. On 1 September 1995, the Secretary-General, pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 8 of that resolution, addressed the following letter to the President of the Security Council:

> "I have the honour to refer to resolution 49/62 D, which the General Assembly adopted on 14 December 1994, at its forty-ninth session, under the agenda item 'Question of Palestine'.
>
> "Paragraph 8 of the resolution requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter.
>
> "In order to fulfil my reporting responsibilities under this resolution, I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to convey to me the views of the Security Council by 29 September 1995."

3. On 25 September 1995, the following reply was received from the Security Council:

> "The Security Council continues to be determined to provide the necessary backing to the Middle East peace process, giving full support to its achievement, including the Declaration of Principles of 13 September 1993, as well as the subsequent implementation Agreements.

"The Council believes that the parties should be further encouraged to adhere to and fully implement the provisions of the Agreements reached."

4. In a note verbale dated 31 August 1995 to the parties concerned, the Secretary-General sought the positions of the Governments of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), regarding any steps taken by them to implement the relevant provisions of the resolution. As at 18 October 1995, the following replies had been received.

Note verbale dated 11 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

"The Permanent Representative of Israel wishes to recall that Israel voted against resolution 49/62 D. Its position remains unchanged. Israel has long advocated direct negotiations without preconditions, freely agreed upon by all parties concerned as the only framework to advance peace in the Middle East.

"The peace process begun at Madrid is based upon this principle. Within the framework of the peace process, Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993 (A/48/486-S/26560, annex), the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area on 4 May 1994 (A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex) and the Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibility on 25 August 1994. Additionally, Israel and Jordan signed a treaty of peace on 26 October 1994 (A/50/73-S/1995/83). Furthermore, bilateral and multilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbours continue, and Israel looks forward to progress on all tracks of the peace process.

"Resolution 49/62 D stands in direct contradiction to the above-mentioned principle, which is the agreed basis of the ongoing peace process. Moreover, paragraph 5 of the resolution is intended to predetermine the outcome of the final status talks agreed upon by Israel and the PLO in the Declaration of Principles, as well as the results of the negotiations on the other tracks. This attempt is contrary to any notion of genuine negotiations."

Note verbale dated 16 October 1995 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

"The Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations seeks to convey the position of the Palestinian leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority on this matter.

"The sponsors of General Assembly resolution 49/62 D, while retaining essential principles, introduced important changes to accommodate the positions of some Member States. As a result, the resolution received overwhelming support from Members of the Assembly. The resolution provides support for the peace process and a more active and expanded role for the United Nations in this process. It also provides the basis for the just

settlement of the question of Palestine by the end of the process. As such, the resolution should serve as an acceptable basis for all parties to work on these important issues.

"In paragraph 2 of resolution 49/62 D, the General Assembly expressed its support for the ongoing peace process, which began in Madrid, and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (A/48/486-S/26560, annex), as well as subsequent implementation agreements, and expressed the hope that the process would lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Since that resolution, further positive developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process have taken place, in particular the signing, on 28 September 1995 in Washington, D.C., of the second implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles, namely, the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which provides, inter alia, for the extension of the self-government arrangements to the rest of the West Bank and the holding of general and democratic Palestinian elections.

"During the past year there have been various delays in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and there has also been some lack of compliance with the provisions of the agreement reached. The two sides, however, have recently indicated their firm commitment to implementing the interim agreement of 28 September 1995 in good faith, fully and according to the agreed timetable. They also reaffirmed their intention to enter into the final status negotiations according to the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles.

"While in the seventh preambular paragraph of resolution 49/62 D the General Assembly affirmed the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the territory occupied since 1967 and of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, in paragraphs 4 and 5, it stressed the need for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and also stressed the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948.

"The Palestine side strongly believes that the international community and the General Assembly should always uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, international humanitarian law and the validity of Security Council resolutions. As such, the General Assembly has to uphold its positions related to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and it should maintain its positions related to the elements of the final settlement (final status issues), where Israel has already created illegal, de facto situations, until negotiations on those issues take place and conclude in the second stage of the peace process and the final settlement is effectively achieved.

"In paragraph 7 of the same resolution the General Assembly emphasized the importance for the United Nations to play a more active and expanded

role in the current peace process and in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The Palestine side welcomes the progress made in this regard, especially in the field of providing economic, social and other assistance to the Palestinian people. It welcomes in particular the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in the field of coordinating United Nations, as well as international, assistance to the Palestinian people. It also welcomes the steps taken to move the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to the territory under the Palestinian Authority, while affirming the continuation of the valuable and important work of UNRWA in other fields of operation outside of these areas.

"The Palestinian side hopes, however, that the United Nations will be more involved in the peace process itself. In this regard, the participation of the United Nations in the steering committee of the multilateral working groups would be a normal step forward. Another step would be the participation of the United Nations in the supervision of the upcoming Palestinian elections. In general, the Palestinian side believes that there is a need for broader acceptance of the United Nations in order for it to play its natural, positive role in the historic search for peace in the Middle East. Further involvement of the Security Council would also be a very important element in the interest of the peace process.

"Finally, the Palestinian side, as it did in previous years, would like to underscore the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 49/62 D for the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter. The Palestinian side stands ready to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General to carry out those efforts in an effective and successful manner and, in the light of the changes made and the new language of the resolution, it expects the other parties to do the same."

Observations

5. The past year has seen important progress in the Middle East peace process. The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which was signed on 28 September 1995, represented a significant step forward in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles (A/48/486-S/26560, annex). It provided a solid basis for the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, a goal that has long been sought by the United Nations. I earnestly hope that the resolve and dedication to peace shown by Israeli and Palestinian leaders will continue to guide them through the transitional stage until a permanent settlement is reached on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

6. I hope that these developments, together with the ongoing implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord, will generate momentum for progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace talks,

leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

7. The United Nations will continue to support the peace process, politically and economically, in order to reinforce what has been achieved in the course of negotiations and help build the foundations for a new post-conflict Middle East. It already participates actively in the multilateral negotiations on regional economic, security, environment, water and refugee issues. The United Nations agencies and programmes are doing their utmost to assist the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. The United Nations Special Coordinator, Mr. Terje Rod Larsen of Norway, and his Office have been instrumental in supporting and facilitating these activities, which are playing an important role in building peace. In the transitional period, he will continue to serve as a focal point for United Nations economic, social and other assistance to the Palestinians throughout the occupied territories.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/931
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that I have decided to appoint Mr. Aziz Hasbi as my new Special Representative in Burundi. Mr. Hasbi will be taking up his responsibilities in the coming days.

Mr. Hasbi, formerly the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations and later Minister of Administrative Affairs, will be replacing Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, who, until his departure from Burundi last month, had served as my Special Representative there for over two years. I would like to put on record my deep appreciation for the effective way in which Mr. Ould Abdallah carried out his duties under extremely difficult circumstances. Without his presence during that time, the situation in Burundi might well have deteriorated drastically.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

95-34209 (E) 071195 081195

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
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S/1995/932
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 1 November 1995 concerning the appointment of Mr. Aziz Hasbi as your Special Representative in Burundi (S/1995/931) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They welcome your decision.

(Signed) Salim Bin Mohammed AL-KHUSSAIBY
President of the Security Council

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UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 112 (c)

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and the members of the Security Council and to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia the periodic report prepared by Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in accordance with paragraph 42 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/89 of 8 March 1995 and Economic and Social Council decision 1995/290 of 25 July 1995.

95-34344 (E) 211195 221195

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ANNEX

Report on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia submitted by Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/89 and Economic and Social Council decision 1995/290

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 8	4
II.	CROATIA	9 - 50	5
	A. Introduction	9 - 12	5
	B. Human rights situation during and after operation "Storm"	13 - 35	6
	C. Return of refugees and displaced persons	36 - 45	14
	D. Situation of refugees in the Kupljensko area	46 - 50	16
III.	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	51 - 79	17
	A. Introduction	51 - 53	17
	B. Sarajevo	54 - 56	17
	C. Allegations of human rights violations committed by Bosnian Serb forces	57 - 69	18
	D. Allegations of human rights violations committed by Bosnian Government and/or Bosnian Croat forces	70 - 79	21
IV.	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA	80 - 100	23
	A. Introduction	80 - 83	23
	B. Information received by the Special Rapporteur	84 - 87	24
	C. Humanitarian situation	88 - 94	24
	D. Protection of minorities	95 - 98	26
	E. Request for establishing a monitoring presence	99 - 100	26
V.	CONCLUSIONS	101 - 107	27

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
VI. RECOMMENDATIONS	108 - 116	28
Appendix. Programme of meetings of the Special Rapporteur during the mission (9-15 October 1995)		30

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Following the resignation of Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights appointed Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia on 27 September 1995.

2. Upon accepting this appointment, the Special Rapporteur clearly stipulated her main objectives in implementing the mandate entrusted to her by the Commission on Human Rights. The primary aim of the Special Rapporteur is to present an objective and impartial assessment of the human rights situation in all countries covered by the mandate on the basis of first-hand information gathered during her missions to the region, as well as information collected by the field operation established by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in the former Yugoslavia.

3. The Special Rapporteur is particularly concerned about the human rights situation of the most vulnerable groups, particularly children. She wishes to stress that the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, ratified and acceded to by 180 countries, has been brutally violated. Children in emergency situations, such as refugee children and children involved in armed conflict, are entitled to special protection and rehabilitative care. The preamble to the Convention strongly emphasizes the vital role of international cooperation in securing children's rights and the Special Rapporteur intends to focus on this issue in her forthcoming reports.

4. The Special Rapporteur expressed particular concern regarding the freedom of the media in all countries covered by her mandate. Strict governmental control, particularly of the electronic media, exists both in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and in Croatia. She noted that, in Croatia, the ruling presidential party strongly dominates the mass media, especially with regard to the recent parliamentary campaign. She stresses the importance of strengthening the electronic media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. The Special Rapporteur intends to establish working relations and contacts with all authorities concerned. She also intends to cooperate with international and local non-governmental organizations. She is encouraged to learn that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has offered its full support to her mission. In addition, the Bosnian Serb de facto authorities* have expressed their readiness to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur.

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* Whenever the terms "Bosnian Serb forces" or "Bosnian Serb de facto authorities" are used in the present report, reference is being made, unless otherwise indicated, only to Bosnian Serbs who are in military or civilian service of the de facto administration, which has its political headquarters at Pale. In particular, no reference is intended or to be implied to any Bosnian Serbs who are loyal to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. Immediately following her appointment, the Special Rapporteur conducted her first mission to the region, in the course of which she visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the itinerary is contained in the appendix). During her visit to the Sarajevo region, she met with representatives of the Bosnian Serb de facto authorities at Pale. Because of time constraints, her mission was limited to the capitals of the above-mentioned countries, with the exception of a field visit to the former Sector North in Croatia. She was unable to conduct a mission to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on this occasion and intends to visit that country on one of her future trips.

7. The Special Rapporteur is aware that a great deal of information has been gathered by various sources, including the Centre for Human Rights field staff and other United Nations agencies operating in the field. However, before expressing her opinions on various sensitive aspects, the Special Rapporteur wishes to conduct her own missions to all regions concerned and to enter into dialogue with the relevant authorities, representatives of various ethnic groups, refugees and other relevant personalities.

8. This report is based on information gathered by the Special Rapporteur during her mission, as well as information collected by the field staff of the Centre for Human Rights and personnel of other international organizations during the period following the resignation of the former Special Rapporteur. The report focuses mainly on human rights problems arising from recent events in the former sectors North and South in Croatia, and in the areas of Banja Luka and Bihac in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As far as other areas covered by the last mission are concerned, the Special Rapporteur intends simply to identify the pertinent human rights issues with the intention of presenting them in a more comprehensive manner in her next report.

II. CROATIA

A. Introduction

9. During her first mission to Croatia, the Special Rapporteur was informed by international observers and representatives of local non-governmental organizations about the status of the various human rights problems persisting in that country. Her mission was also devoted to establishing important contacts with relevant authorities. In future missions, the Special Rapporteur intends to conduct her own first-hand investigations of alleged human rights violations. Following this, important problems such as the independence of the judiciary, illegal and forced evictions, the application of citizenship law, the situation of the media, and other human rights issues which are not discussed in the present report will be given due attention in a future report.

10. The present report is primarily concerned with the main human rights problems arising as a consequence of the military operation in the former sectors North and South known as operation "Storm". It also touches on the very important question of the human rights situation of national minorities in Croatia.

11. The Special Rapporteur notes with concern that the Parliament temporarily suspended some articles of the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of National and Ethnic Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia during its session held from 19 to 21 September 1995. The adoption of that law was considered to be one of the essential conditions for the international recognition of Croatia. Although that law was never fully implemented, it nevertheless provided national minorities with important legal guarantees. The decision to suspend articles which guarantee the special status of districts predominantly populated by national minorities, create separate educational institutions, and secure proportional representation in the Parliament, Government and judiciary, places a question mark over the attitude of the Croatian authorities towards national minorities in general and the Serbian minority in particular. It also seriously undermines the credibility of the officially proclaimed support for the return of refugees as it does not encourage their return if their rights are undermined in this way.

12. The Special Rapporteur also notes with concern that article 60 of the above-mentioned law establishing the Provisional Human Rights Court has been suspended. The establishment of that court was always regarded as an important step towards strengthening the system of human rights guarantees in Croatia. Nevertheless it has never become operational despite the strong recommendations of the former Special Rapporteur.

B. Human rights situation during and after operation "Storm"

1. General observations

13. Former sectors North and South formed part of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) which were established in April 1992 in Croatia following the secession of its territories predominantly inhabited by the Serbian population. In 1991, the ethnic composition of those areas which subsequently came to be known as former sectors North and South was as follows: Sector South - Serbs 75.8 per cent, Croats 21.2 per cent, others 3.0 per cent; Sector North - Serbs 71.2 per cent, Croats 23.1 per cent, others 5.7 per cent. This composition has significantly changed during the past three years for the following reasons. First, almost the entire Croatian population was forced to leave both former sectors as a consequence of serious human rights violations committed against them by the de facto Serb authorities. Secondly, Serbian refugees and displaced persons from other parts of Croatia came to reside in these territories. Despite all efforts, neither the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia nor the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) was able to facilitate the return of Croatian refugees and displaced persons to these territories, as even an international presence was not able to provide effective protection for the remaining non-Serbian population in that area.

14. On 4 August 1995, the Croatian army launched a military operation, operation "Storm", throughout the former sectors North and South; it took control of Knin in former Sector South at midday on 5 August and most of the rest of the Sector by 7 August 1995. Severe restrictions on movement were imposed on the United Nations and other international personnel in Knin until

7 August, and in other parts of the Sector until as late as 13 August. Periodic restrictions of movement were imposed throughout August 1995. In former Sector North, where active fighting continued well into the second week of August, severe restrictions on movement were imposed as well. As a consequence of these limitations, it is difficult to make an objective assessment of the extent of casualties and damage during the first days of operation. Nevertheless international observers have managed to collect credible information indicating that serious violations of humanitarian law and human rights law occurred during and after the military operation. 1/

15. During the military action, civilian targets, including residential areas of Knin, were deliberately targeted by the Croatian army. At least 20 dead bodies, including bodies of women and children, were seen on 5 August by United Nations military personnel along the main road in the town. An artillery shell fired by the Croatian army on the night of 4 August landed less than 10 metres from the United Nations camp at Knin, killing seven persons aboard a tractor who were on their way to the compound. The field staff of the Centre for Human Rights have also received testimonies from survivors of two instances occurring on 5 August in which fleeing Serbs were stopped and shot dead by Croatian army troops. At least nine persons were killed in these incidents.

16. Numerous United Nations observation posts were captured, in some cases after being deliberately fired upon by the Croatian army. Four United Nations peace-keepers were killed and a number of others were wounded. Seven Danish peace-keepers were used as human shields when they were forced by a Croatian officer to walk at the front of a group of advancing soldiers in Bosanka Dubica.

17. Following the offensive, the Croatian authorities launched a public campaign aimed at persuading the Krajina Serbs to remain in the former sectors. The operation, however, resulted in a vast exodus of Serbs from both former sectors into the Serb-controlled region of Bosnia and Herzegovina and into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, from 4 to 10 August 1995. Some 200,000 persons, both military personnel and civilians, constituting more than 90 per cent of the population of the former sectors, crossed the border during this period. No more than 5,000 Serbs still remain in the area, most of them elderly and handicapped.

18. Fleeing civilians were subjected to various forms of harassment, including military assaults and attacks by Croatian civilians. On 8 August, a refugee column was shelled between Glina and Dvor, resulting in at least 4 dead and 10 wounded. A serious incident occurred in Sisak on 9 August, when a Croatian mob attacked a refugee column with stones, resulting in the injury of many persons. One woman subsequently died of her wounds. Croatian police watched passively until United Nations civilian police monitors showed up and prompted them to intervene. The Special Rapporteur met some Krajina refugees in Belgrade. They informed her of the tragic circumstances of their flight, which was particularly traumatic for children, the elderly, the sick and wounded.

19. Nearly 1,000 persons, including those without the means to depart, sought and were provided refuge in the UNCRO Sector South headquarters compound at Knin, commencing on the evening of 4 August. Following their arrival, the United Nations attempted to negotiate their safe passage to the Federal Republic

of Yugoslavia, in accordance with their wishes, with the Government of Croatia. The evacuation was stalled by the demand of the Croatian authorities that all military-age men be surrendered for investigation of possible complicity in war crimes.

20. After long negotiations with the United Nations, the Government of Croatia made a list of 62 people to be charged with armed rebellion against the Republic of Croatia, war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. However the Government did not provide any evidence or court documents supporting the charges, so the United Nations refused to hand over the persons named on the list.

21. The Government of Croatia then reduced the number of persons it wished to take into custody to 38. Pursuant to an agreement with the United Nations, these persons were transferred to Croatian custody only after a legal team had reviewed arrest warrants issued by the Croatian courts. In addition, the Croatian authorities agreed to take the following measures: to guarantee compliance with the minimum international standards for the treatment of detainees; to afford due process of law as defined under international fair trial standards; to permit the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the detainees and to monitor the conditions of detention; to afford the United Nations regular access to the detainees; and to allow the United Nations to monitor and observe the legal proceedings against the detainees.

22. Information provided by the Croatian authorities on 30 August indicates that during operation "Storm", 526 Serbs were killed, 116 of them civilians, that 211 Croatian soldiers and policemen and 42 Croatian civilians were killed, and that 907 persons were detained for investigation, 704 of whom are still in detention.

2. Human rights violations which occurred during and after operation "Storm"

23. Evidence gathered so far indicates that violations of human rights and humanitarian law which were committed during and after operation "Storm" include the following:

(a) Killing of fleeing civilians;

(b) Targeting of heavy weapons against militarily insignificant sites in towns including residential areas of Glina and Knin;

(c) Killing of remaining Serb civilians;

(d) Lack of protection of the remaining members of the minority population which mainly comprises the dependent, the elderly, the physically and mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. These groups lack the following kinds of care and support: reasonable police protection; identification documents; basic nutrition; basic medical care; pension rights; and other forms of assistance. In addition, non-registered persons are unable to apply for family reunification;

(e) Threats and ill-treatment against the Serb minority population by Croatian soldiers and policemen and also by Croatian civilians;

(f) Massive burning of houses belonging to the Serbian population which had fled;

(g) Massive looting of houses belonging to the Serbian population by Croatian soldiers, policemen and civilians;

(h) Occupation of houses belonging to the Serbian population, and in some cases eviction of Serbs residing there.

3. Killing of civilians

24. Field staff of the Centre for Human Rights received numerous reports of killings taking place in former sectors South and North both while the military operation was ongoing, without any military justification, and after the Croatian army had assumed control of the region. More than 120 bodies have been discovered by the United Nations and reports of killings have been especially numerous in the Knin area. According to information received, a common murder method was shots in the back of the head.

25. Information gathered by international observers is presented below and gives some indication of the scale of these practices:

Former Sector South

(a) International observers found a male corpse, 65 years of age, on 9 August in the brush by a road near Benkovac. There were bullet wounds in the head and body. The man had been seen alive 25 minutes earlier by UNCRO soldiers in the custody of Croatian civilian police;

(b) International observers visited a home in Knin on 12 August where they found the bodies of a father and son, 90 and 62 years of age, dressed in civilian clothes and shot in the head approximately one week earlier, who had last been seen alive in the company of Croatian soldiers who were removing property, including a television set, from the mens' home;

(c) On 12 August it was reported that a number of elderly persons were burnt to death in their homes in the village of Komic;

(d) International observers were informed on 29 August that a 65-year-old man had allegedly been killed on 13 August in the village of Orlic near Knin by two men in grey Croatian civilian police uniforms and another in a Croatian army uniform;

(e) On 16 August, international observers found, in the village of Zagrovic, four partially dressed men (three of whom were approximately 65 years of age) killed by gunshot wounds to the head. They had been dead for approximately one week;

(f) In the village of Kakanj, international observers found the bodies of two persons who had allegedly been killed on 18 August by Croatian soldiers. The perpetrators also allegedly beat others and set fire to a house;

(g) After the burning of the hamlet of Grubori, on 25 August, the body of an 80-year-old man, dressed in pyjamas was discovered on the floor of his bedroom. He had apparently been shot at close range in the back of the head. A second man, 65 years of age, had been found in a field with his throat cut. On the following day, international observers found a man and a woman shot in the head in a field, and the corpse of a 90-year-old woman burnt to death in her home. Croatian Special Police Forces had been observed walking up a road to the hamlet approximately two hours before the arson and killings;

(h) An elderly woman who had been seen entering her home in Mala Polaca with three uniformed Croatian soldiers was found in the home on 29 August, dead from gunshot wounds;

(i) In the hamlet of Brgud near Devrske, on 11 September, bodies of two elderly women who had been shot dead were found by international observers;

(j) In the village of Varivode, nine Serbs were allegedly killed by four to six armed men in black uniforms on 28 September. International observers noted blood on the stairs of houses in the village, gunshot marks on walls and other evidence;

(k) In the village of Gudura, international observers received reports that the bodies of two men were found on 29 September, allegedly shot by a group of three to six uniformed men conducting house searches in the village;

Former Sector North

(l) In the village of Bijeli Klanac in the municipality of Krnjak, a number of partially burnt bodies were found on 21 August, including the body of a child estimated to be 10 years of age;

(m) Near Radasnica, Gornji Zirovac, international observers found on 30 August two decapitated men, in civilian clothes. The victims appeared to have been dead for two weeks.

4. Burning and looting of civilian property

26. The looting of property and the burning of abandoned houses occurred on a massive scale in former sectors North and South during the weeks following the completion of operation "Storm". Numerous towns, particularly in former Sector South, were almost entirely destroyed by arson, including the towns of Kistanje, Devrske, Vrbnik, Golubic, Biovicino Selo, Otric and Srb. In other towns and villages, certain properties were burnt, which suggests that those responsible had a prior knowledge of who lived where. A few major towns, including Benkovac and Obrovac, were spared.

27. It is impossible to give the exact number of houses which have been destroyed by fire in former sectors North and South, although the total is certainly in excess of 5,000. Reliable United Nations estimates put the minimum number of homes burnt in former Sector South at 60 per cent of the total while the number in former Sector North is about 30 per cent. In innumerable cases personally observed by United Nations and other international personnel, Croatian soldiers and civilian police were in direct proximity to burning buildings, in no case taking action against the fires, and in some cases evidently setting them.

28. The number of buildings set on fire in former Sector South showed a decrease towards the end of August 1995 as compared to the rate of arson observed by the United Nations during the middle of the month. However, further reports were received in late August and September of the intimidation of Serbs still residing in the former Sector, and of ongoing looting.

29. Moreover, some reports of burning houses in former Sector South were still being received throughout September and early October 1995. Reports were received from various locations, including Kaldrma, Devrske and hamlets near Obrovac.

30. International observers gave eye-witness accounts of Croatian soldiers allowing large numbers of Bosnian civilians to cross the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina at Gornji Zirovac on 17 August 1995 in order to loot Serb villages on a massive scale. Soldiers from the army of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Fifth Corps) were seen looting and Croatian soldiers who were posted in the area watched and did nothing to prevent any further incidents from occurring.

31. The Croatian authorities in Knin, including the military governor, General Cermak, gave numerous assurances to United Nations officials in August and September 1995 that patrolling by Croatian civilian police would soon be increased throughout the former sectors. The Foreign Minister of Croatia on 23 August gave written assurances to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stating: "the Croatian Government has taken all the necessary measures to prevent any further incidents from occurring". However, by 10 September, United Nations monitors had observed that practically no Croatian police were present in the countryside except in the area of Vrlika.

32. Croatian authorities in former Sector South generally provided effective protection in August and September 1995 to religious and cultural sites, including Orthodox churches and monasteries, and damage reported to these buildings was minimal. Among the few exceptions were the Orthodox church at the entrance to Cetina valley, and memorials to Second World War victims at Kistanje and Udbina, all of which suffered major vandalism.

33. The following list provides examples of burning, looting and intimidation occurring in the former sectors:

Former Sector South

(a) In Gracac, on 6 August, international observers witnessed looting by Croatian troops;

(b) In Knin, it was reported that on 6 August four residences were set on fire;

(c) In Knin, international observers reported on 7 August that homes and stores were ransacked and that electrical goods and military equipment were missing;

(d) In Kosovo, six uniformed soldiers equipped with fuel canisters allegedly set fire to houses on 10 August;

(e) In the villages of Kaldrma and Cenici, south of Knin, approximately 40 houses and crops were burnt on 10 August. Croatian soldiers and two vehicles carrying fuel canisters and fire axes reportedly were seen in the vicinity;

(f) In the village of Kistanje, on 10 August, international observers witnessed a man driving a Croatian army truck who set fire to a store in the centre of the village;

(g) The town of Devrske was reported to be on fire on 11 August;

(h) The towns of Kistanje and Devrske were reported destroyed by fire on 13 August;

(i) Major damage from arson was reported in numerous other towns in former Sector South during the middle two weeks of August, including Golubic, Vrbnik, Padene, Ervnik, Biovicino Selo, Kastel Zegarski, Biljane, Otric, Srb and Donji Lapac;

(j) In the village of Cenici, on 13 August, international observers were informed by an elderly man that Croatian soldiers had set fire to his house several days before;

(k) In the village of Doljani near Otocac, international observers reported on 24 August that 25 to 30 houses had recently been burnt. A contingent of Croatian soldiers was seen within one kilometre of the location but did not take any action to prevent the fire;

(l) On 25 August, international observers witnessed the entire hamlet of Grubori, consisting of 18 houses and barns, being consumed by fire. The fire was apparently set two or three hours prior to their arrival at the scene;

(m) In Markovac, on 29 August, international observers reported that numerous houses were set on fire. In addition, Croatian soldiers were reported to have shot into houses. One man was reportedly beaten by Croatian soldiers despite being in possession of new Croatian identity documents;

(n) In Mala Polaca, on 4 September, international observers witnessed Croatian soldiers in the act of looting;

(o) In the villages north of Kistanje, international observers were informed on 5 September that the occupants were regularly harassed and intimidated by Croatian soldiers. Soldiers had allegedly shot numerous domestic animals;

(p) In the village of Biovicino Selo on 5 September, international observers witnessed the occupants of four cars openly looting;

(q) In the village of Diabolo Brdo near Korenica, on 5 September, international observers found three freshly burnt corpses and the corpses of domestic animals;

(r) In the villages of Ridene, Cenici, Drnis, Josevica, Zaluzje and Ristici, on 7 September, numerous houses were reported burnt;

(s) In Gornje Ceranje, on 12 September, international observers received a report from an elderly couple that two Croatian soldiers had thrown a grenade into their house;

Former Sector North

(t) In a village of Gornji Cerovljani, on 2 September, international observers reported that a church, which was undamaged as at 31 August, had been destroyed;

(u) In a village of Gruboroni, on 2 September, it was reported that Croatian army soldiers searched the village for weapons and took television sets and other valuables from the houses;

(v) In the village of Paukovac, on 7 September, international observers reported that 50 houses (80 per cent) had been destroyed;

(w) In the village of Rijeka, on 11 September, international observers reported that 13 houses had been burnt. Five Croatian soldiers prevented the observers from investigating further;

(x) International observers reported on 14 September that Croatian soldiers looted Serb property while Croatian police were in attendance in the villages of Donji Klasnic, between Soruga and Uncani, Donji Zirovac;

(y) In the villages of Katinovac, Sibare, Rujnica, Rajici, Kljajici, Kbnezevci, Pecka, Crni Potok and Gornji Klasnic, on 16 September, international observers reported having seen 84 recently burnt houses;

(z) In the village of Dugi Dol, on 8 October, international observers saw approximately 14 burnt houses. The remaining houses in the village were looted and vandalized;

(aa) International observers visiting the village of Buzeta reported on 10 October that the Orthodox church had been completely burnt and destroyed.

5. Other forms of harassment

34. Although the Croatian authorities are trying to assure the remaining Serbs that they are welcome to stay in Croatia, the Special Rapporteur has received numerous reports suggesting that in fact their continued residence in Croatia is not welcome. During her mission to the former Sector North, the Special Rapporteur met with some elderly and disabled Serbs who reported being constantly harassed and attacked by uniformed men and civilians. A 65-year-old disabled woman had been shot at by armed and uniformed assailants just two days before the visit of the Special Rapporteur. International observers confirm that armed individuals in Croatian army uniforms regularly roam the countryside terrorizing elderly Serb civilians.

35. These violations have been brought to the attention of the Government of Croatia at the highest levels by the United Nations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on a number of occasions. On 18 October 1995 the Croatian Minister of the Interior presented the results of the investigation of crimes committed in connection with operation "Storm", according to which the police had resolved 25 of 41 registered cases of murder. The police have arrested 13 people suspected of committing crimes in the village of Gosici and in Varivode. According to the Government only one Croatian army soldier was included among the suspects, whereas all others were civilians who were wearing military apparel. According to Government information, the police have also received reports of 844 cases of looting, 619 of which have been resolved; 751 suspects have been reported to state attorneys. The Special Rapporteur has not received any detailed information concerning the prosecution of perpetrators.

C. Return of refugees and displaced persons

36. The official line in Croatia is that the Serbs are welcome to return to their ancestral homes. However, the reality is rather different. First, there are physical barriers to returning because of the widespread burning of houses and, secondly, there are more subtle legal and administrative impediments.

37. During her recent mission, the Special Rapporteur held discussions with the Croatian authorities concerning the recently adopted law on the temporary takeover and management of certain property. This law allows the Croatian authorities to assume control over "abandoned property" which may then be given to Croatian displaced persons and refugees for "temporary possession and use". This law primarily addresses the situation created in the former sectors when nearly 200,000 Serbs fled their homes following Croatia's military action at the beginning of August. The Special Rapporteur was informed by the Croatian authorities that the purpose of the new law was to protect abandoned property and to secure it for the possible return of the legitimate owners.

38. There are a number of concerns regarding this law. First, it does not appear to conform with articles 3 and 48 of the Croatian Constitution, which guarantee the right of ownership. Article 50 of the Constitution stipulates that ownership may in the interests of the Republic be restricted by law, or property taken over against indemnity equal to its market value. Thus the property of the fleeing Serbs in the form of real estate should be expropriated by the Government only in exchange for its market value. However, the law on the temporary takeover and management of certain property constitutes a de facto confiscation. Furthermore this law concerns not only real estate but also moveable property.

39. The law has extended the period of time during which the legitimate owners may return to Croatia and reclaim their property from 30 to 90 days. It remains unclear what the status of the property is after the 90 days are over, even though it has been stipulated that the ownership of unclaimed property will be dealt with by a special law. Furthermore, even if the owner does return within the deadline, his or her property will not be restored until the Croatian citizen to whom the property has been given receives another "appropriate property for possession and use". This law has a restrictive effect on the concept of property since Serbs may be deprived of the right to own property solely because they are unable to use it personally.

40. Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur notes the difficulties facing refugees in returning to Croatia within the deadline in order to reclaim their properties. The Croatian Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees has established a procedure for return. After studying the regulations, the Special Rapporteur is convinced that the vast majority of refugees, regardless of their own intentions, will not be able to meet those requirements. During the meeting with the Special Rapporteur, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ivica Kostovic, stated that all those who are able to present the required documents would be allowed to return. According to him, this proves the serious intention of the Government in its officially proclaimed policy towards the return of refugees.

41. However, the Special Rapporteur points out that a couple of thousand Croatian Serb refugees are already waiting in Hungary for return and are being prevented from doing so by various bureaucratic measures instituted by Croatian officials. Reports have been received of various administrative obstacles and the very uncooperative attitude towards refugees of both the Croatian liaison office in Belgrade and the Croatian embassy in Budapest. Other reports confirm that refugees have been turned back at the border despite being in possession of the necessary documentation, including Croatian citizenship papers. Given that return within the prescribed time-limits does not appear feasible, the requirement that the owners must be in Croatia constitutes an insurmountable obstacle for Serbs currently outside Croatia.

42. It is necessary to indicate that this law affects not only refugees who fled from the former sectors but also persons who left Croatia after 17 August 1990, or are staying in either the former Sector East, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, or the Bosnian Serb-held areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina and have not used the property personally since leaving Croatia.

43. Another matter for concern regarding refugees and displaced persons is the directive issued by the Croatian Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees on 22 September on the revocation of refugee status of citizens of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina who are in Croatia and who came from municipalities which were under the control of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on that date. This measure could have serious implications for the status of up to 100,000 refugees.

44. The Government of Croatia has informed the Special Rapporteur that only refugees from areas considered to be completely safe would be required to return to Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, by its terms, the revocation of refugee status affects all of the country's refugees in Croatia, with only limited exceptions such as sick people, orphans and those studying in Croatia. According to the Government, the municipalities which should not in any case be considered safe are those still under the control of the Bosnian Serb army and those close to the front line.

45. More than 40,000 Croatian displaced persons who were originally from Krajina and Western Slavonia are expected to return to their former homes by the end of the year.

D. Situation of refugees in the Kupljensko area

46. At the beginning of August, approximately 25,000 Bosnian Muslim refugees fled from the Velika Kladusa area of Bihac, in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina, to Croatia following the fall of that region to the Bosnian Government forces. They have been precariously settled in the Kupljensko area along the sides of the road between Vojnic and Velika Kladusa. The majority of these refugees are unwilling to return to Bihac because of the security situation. Details of this problem are provided in paragraphs 72 to 79 below.

47. There are a number of allegations against the Croatian civilian authorities and the Croatian security forces concerning their treatment of those refugees. Many concerns have been raised concerning the humanitarian situation in this camp. International agencies have assessed that the site of the camp is highly unsuitable, with poor sanitation leading to serious health concerns. The makeshift accommodation in which the refugees are housed is also highly unsuitable for the winter ahead.

48. The general security situation is reported to be very bad, with tensions running high among the refugees and the presence of a large number of draft-age men carrying dangerous weapons. There are allegations that the Croatian security forces are responsible for worsening the security situation by harassing and provoking the refugees and by encouraging a black market in the camp. There are some reports that Croatian security forces have shot and wounded persons leaving the camp area, which is strictly forbidden. In one case, it was reported that on 25 August 1995, three young people were shot in the right hand by two uniformed men when discovered picking pears from a tree.

49. In September, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that at least 40 persons have been abducted and

forcibly repatriated by Croatian army soldiers. Other reports state that Croatian soldiers are receiving 200 deutsche mark for each man handed over to the Bosnian Government forces (Fifth Corps).

50. There are allegations that the refugees are experiencing problems receiving medical care in Croatian hospitals. Reports state that hospital authorities are reluctant to provide treatment without receiving payment first and that ambulance drivers have been harassed at checkpoints.

III. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A. Introduction

51. During her mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Special Rapporteur held meetings with representatives of governmental authorities, including Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and members of various non-governmental organizations (see appendix). Discussions concerned recent political developments and pertinent human rights issues. The Special Rapporteur was assured full cooperation and support by the Bosnian Government authorities, particularly with regard to the question of access to territories. The Special Rapporteur was also greatly encouraged by the activities of the non-governmental community.

52. A visit was also made to the headquarters of the Bosnian Serb de facto authorities at Pale, where a meeting was held with Mr. Aleksa Buha, who, on behalf of the leadership of the Bosnian Serb de facto authorities, expressed willingness to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur. The Special Rapporteur stressed the need for free access to all Bosnian Serb-held territories, particularly Srebrenica, Zepa and Banja Luka, if a full assessment of the human rights situation was to be made. She was informed that there would be difficulties in gaining full access until a final peace agreement had been concluded.

53. In terms of the general human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Special Rapporteur notes that the military activities in recent months and the accompanying territorial changes have yielded new evidence of human rights violations, both past and present. There are allegations of human rights violations committed by all sides to the conflict during the recent military offensives which require further investigation. In addition, there may be allegations of violations committed in the past which it may now be possible to investigate through the possibility of access to territories captured by Government and Bosnian-Croat forces; the displacement of persecuted minorities to accessible territories; and the possibility of access to Bosnian Serb-held lands.

B. Sarajevo

54. Sarajevo has been the scene of some of the gravest violations of human rights in the course of this conflict; the targeting of civilians by shelling and sniping has resulted in countless dead and wounded. The shelling of Markale

market on 28 August 1995, in which 37 people died and 80 were injured, was a particularly brutal example of the targeting of civilians. The humanitarian situation has also been extremely serious, with acute food shortages and problems with utilities which have frequently been used as a weapon of war.

55. The new momentum towards peace in the region appears to be having a most dramatic and visible impact on life in Sarajevo. The Special Rapporteur is highly encouraged to report a much improved situation in the city. Restrictions on the freedom of movement for international observers have been almost completely lifted. Two important routes have been opened up for the United Nations and international aid agencies, while the "blue routes" have been opened for civilian traffic. The food situation has improved, owing to the increase in humanitarian aid deliveries and the revitalization of commercial traffic due to improved security conditions in the Mt. Igman road. The first aeroplane in five months landed at the airport on 15 September 1995.

56. The security conditions are also greatly improved. The level of firing incidents has fallen drastically and on 2 October 1995 the lowest level of firing incidents since the start of the conflict was reported. Since the implementation of the cease-fire accord on 12 October 1995, the utility situation has improved significantly. Electricity is being supplied to most of the city and gas was restored on 12 October. Water became available intermittently on 20 October.

C. Allegations of human rights violations committed by Bosnian Serb forces

1. Human rights concerns arising from recent military offensives

57. There are allegations of violations of international humanitarian law committed by Bosnian Serb forces which require further investigation. For example, a massacre was allegedly committed by the Bosnian Serb army in the village of Oborci on 12 September 1995 and the victims had suffered gunshot wounds to the head. The Bosnian Serb forces reportedly captured many prisoners during these offensives but ICRC has not yet been granted access to them. In addition, human rights monitors have consistently been denied access to all Bosnian Serb-held territories.

2. Expulsion and other abuses against minorities from Serb-held areas in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina

58. The expulsion of minorities from Bosnian Serb-held areas in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina has occurred at an increased rate since early September. Over 1,000 persons, mostly Muslims, were expelled from Doboj between 20 and 22 September. It is reported that they were forced to assemble in a sports stadium, robbed of their valuables, transported to a wooded area and then forced to walk to the front line. Three elderly persons died of exhaustion during the journey. Some of the people displaced showed clear signs of severe physical abuse, including an elderly woman with marks on her hands and face indicating

that she had been bound and gagged with wire. On 11 September, unknown men entered the village of Sasina near Sanski Most and evicted 150 Croats.

59. Since the beginning of October, this problem has intensified, with large-scale expulsions from various areas, including Prijedor, Banja Luka and Sanski Most. Approximately 6,000 people are reported to have been expelled to central Bosnia. Some 1,000 are still located in the Zenica area, whereas several thousand have been relocated to areas in western Bosnia recently captured by Bosnian Government and Bosnian-Croat forces. Field staff of the Centre for Human Rights, in conjunction with United Nations Peace Forces and UNPROFOR civilian staff, conducted a mission to Zenica and Travnik at the end of October where they interviewed numerous displaced persons. This investigation has, by and large, confirmed reports of international agencies in Zenica which indicated numerous cases of forcible eviction, rape, beating and physical and psychological torture. There are also some accounts of detention in horrific conditions and numerous reports of forced labour. This investigation found little information on executions.

60. Many of the displaced persons report that they were expelled from their houses by paramilitary groups from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at very short notice. They were often given little more than half an hour to pack their belongings. Several families were forcibly separated from their relatives; in one account a woman from Ljubija was separated at gunpoint from her husband, her two children and her mother. The buses were stopped several times on their journey to the confrontation line. The vast majority of men between 17 and 60 were separated from the rest and there were reports that some soldiers from the Bosnian Serb forces robbed the displaced people of their money. The journey across the confrontation line was immensely difficult and, in one expulsion, during the night of 6 October, several elderly and disabled people are reported to have drowned when forced to cross the Usora river.

61. The persons displaced are mainly the elderly, women and children. The fate of draft-age men who were systematically separated from the others during these expulsions is unknown; their number is assessed at between 300 and 500. In addition, a significant number of men who were performing forced labour duties were left behind and are now reported missing. Furthermore access of international agencies to the remaining minority population, estimated at 13,000, has been severely restricted and is further jeopardized by armed attacks on their staff.

62. Allegations of mass killings conducted by Serbian paramilitary groups in these towns is a matter of grave concern. Reports received independently from many of the displaced indicate that up to 100 persons who refused to leave their homes were killed at Bosanski Novi. It is also reported that as many as several hundred may have been executed in a cement factory at Sanski Most. During the expulsion of minorities from Prijedor, it was reported that a 55-year-old woman who refused to leave her home was stabbed to death.

63. The following are typical accounts of these expulsions. At Bosanska Petrovac, the Bosnian Muslim minority were expelled by Bosnian Serb soldiers. They were given only minutes to pack their belongings. Young girls between the ages of 17 and 18 were reportedly separated from the others and some 30 draft-

age men were taken from a convoy at Teslic and their fate remains unknown. In another case, 1,200 displaced persons who arrived at Tesanj reported that they had been expelled from their homes in similar circumstances and had been forced to pay a fee of DM 120 for Bosnian Muslims and DM 50 for Bosnian Croats before leaving Bosnian Serb-held territory. On 12 October 1995, 38 persons were expelled from Bijeljina; they recount how they were taken from their homes early in the morning by men wearing uniforms and black masks. They were not permitted to pack their belongings or get dressed properly and were forced to hand over their money and jewellery.

64. Interviews conducted with displaced persons confirm earlier reports of the detention of non-Serbs for forced labour. It is assessed that this practice has been so widespread that it has encompassed the vast majority of the male, draft-age population. Many are reported to have been forced to perform labour duties in extremely hazardous circumstances, such as the vicinity of confrontation lines. Duties included the digging of trenches and the cutting of timber. Several persons interviewed reported that they were dispatched for these duties for periods of two to three months at a time, after which they were allowed to return for a couple of weeks to their families. Such forced labour resulted in the death of a significant number of men and the wounding of many others. One man interviewed reported that he had been performing forced labour duties since 15 July 1992. He stated that on 12 June 1995 he was wounded by a gunshot through his stomach while digging a trench at Bajici near Brcko. Owing to the very dangerous circumstances of the location, his work group of 10 people was working without Bosnian Serb supervision. He reported being threatened that his relatives would be killed if he attempted to escape. He also stated that he had received good medical treatment. The practice of forced labour is a violation of fundamental human rights norms.

3. The situation in Banja Luka

65. Banja Luka has experienced two major waves of displaced persons in recent months. In August, there was an enormous influx of Serbs from the Krajina, most of whom continued on their way to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In September, an estimated number of 50,000 Serbs were displaced to Banja Luka from western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

66. The humanitarian situation in the city has been and continues to be precarious. The city is reported to be very congested and the need for humanitarian assistance is great. The sanitary conditions at the collective centres where the displaced persons are housed are very poor and many people are reportedly sleeping out in the open.

67. The persecution of minorities has been an ongoing problem, as testified in reports of the former Special Rapporteur. However, the influx of thousands of displaced Serbs has no doubt exacerbated the situation. Persecution has mostly taken the form of evictions, which have sometimes been conducted in a very brutal manner, including torture and death. Since August 1995 particularly, most members of minority groups have been desperate to leave and, on 14 August, an organized departure of Croats and Muslims began to Croatia at the Srbac/Davor crossing. This procedure was halted on 21 September, by which time 22,077

persons, comprising 14,417 Croats, 7,619 Muslims and 41 others had crossed over to Croatia.

68. Two important matters which were raised in the reports of the former Special Rapporteur continue to give reasons for concern. First, eight members of the Merhamet leadership who were arrested and placed in detention on 28 February 1995 for alleged espionage activities are still reported to be in detention. The trial was scheduled to commence on 31 October 1995 and they may face the death penalty if found guilty. There are allegations that they have suffered mistreatment while in detention, and earlier plans for prisoner exchanges with Bosnian Serb prisoners held by the Bosnian Government have not been successful. In a similar trial, the "Valter group", a group of five members of the Party of Democratic Action, were found guilty and sentenced to a period of between 13 and 20 years, in a trial which was concluded approximately two months ago. In the context of the ongoing persecution of the Catholic clergy, it should be noted that Bishop Komarica of Banja Luka remains under house arrest.

4. Srebrenica

69. The brutal expulsion of Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica was related in the report of the former Special Rapporteur of 22 August 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/9). The question of the thousands missing and detained from Srebrenica has still not been resolved. On 13 September 1995, ICRC gave further clarification to its figure of 10,000 tracing requests concerning those missing from Srebrenica. It appears that 2,000 of these are duplicate tracing requests. This leaves a total of 8,000 tracing requests for persons unaccounted for. On the basis of information given by the families, the figure of 8,000 unaccounted for can be further broken down as follows. First, it appears that 5,000 persons are still missing from an enormous column of mostly draft-age men who left the enclave before its fall to the Bosnian Serb forces. It is clear that a number have safely reached territory governed by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but no further precision can be given. Secondly, it appears that 3,000 persons who were separated from their families by the Bosnian Serb forces during the actual expulsion are missing. ICRC has been given access to only 166 persons in detention. Ongoing investigation by various international agencies further strengthens the preliminary conclusion reached by the former Special Rapporteur in his report of 22 August 1995, and strongly suggests that mass killings have taken place. The Special Rapporteur intends to examine thoroughly the findings of the investigation into events in Srebrenica which she has recently received from the Netherlands authorities.

D. Allegations of human rights violations committed by Bosnian Government and/or Bosnian Croat forces

1. Human rights concerns arising from recent military offensives

70. Further investigation is necessary regarding allegations of violations of human rights committed by the Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croat forces during the recent military operations in central and western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For example, it is alleged by displaced persons in Livno that Bosnian Croat and Croatian army forces fired at a bus of fleeing civilians resulting in the death of 20 passengers and injury to 15 more. However, these investigations are being hampered by the ongoing restrictions of access to the area by both Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croat forces.

71. The Bosnian Government army has stated that it has captured a large number of men during the recent military operations, but ICRC has not yet been given access to them. The Bosnian Croat forces have also detained a number of prisoners following the operation and have granted access to ICRC to approximately 100 to 150 of this number.

2. Bihac

72. The military situation in the Bihac pocket changed dramatically in August 1995 with the defeat by the Bosnian Government forces (Fifth Corps) and the Croatian army of the renegade Muslim forces of the "Autonomous Republic of Western Bosnia" led by Fikret Abdic. This resulted in the exodus of some 25,000 Abdic followers to Croatia, where they are currently housed in the Kupljensko camp, south of Vojnic.

73. There are serious allegations of human rights abuses committed against the Abdic followers during and after the offensive. Investigations have already been conducted by international agencies into these allegations but further investigation is necessary.

74. There are allegations of violations of international humanitarian law during the offensive. One former Abdic supporter reported that he was in a group of 100 men who were defeated by the Bosnian Government forces (Fifth Corps). He reported that even though he had laid down his arms, he was singled out of a line of people and shot with the result that he suffered serious head injuries and the loss of his right eye. There are other allegations of atrocities committed against civilians which require further investigation.

75. Reports have been received since the offensive and up to the present time that families of Abdic followers remaining in Velika Kladusa have been subjected to physical abuse and harassment. It would appear that these security concerns are discouraging the return in substantial numbers of the displaced persons in Kupljensko camp.

76. The most disturbing pattern to emerge from these reports is the sexual abuse and harassment of women. In a number of reported cases the perpetrators have been identified as members of the Fifth Corps and in other cases the assailants were alleged to be wearing military uniforms. In one reported case, the wife of a senior Abdic army official was interrogated several times in her home by members of the Fifth Corps. Finally, on 10 August, she was abducted from her home, beaten and raped. In another case investigated by international monitors, a 67-year-old woman, who had been forced to stay behind in Velika Kladusa to look after her paralysed husband, was raped in her home at night by an armed man in uniform. In another case, a woman and her two daughters were

repeatedly beaten and harassed by soldiers from the Fifth Corps on several occasions, and interrogated about the military activities of male relatives.

77. Reports of such incidents continued to be received in October. In an incident in late September, an intruder dressed in uniform broke into the home of a woman and beat her. In another investigated case, on 5 October, a man in uniform broke into a house and attempted to rape a woman who was holding a baby.

78. The Bosnian Government authorities are now taking some note of the general security situation in this area and have instituted certain measures to help alleviate the problem and to create conditions necessary for the return of the refugees in Kupljensko camp. It is recognized that elements of the Fifth Corps are responsible for some of these incidents and must be controlled. The Federal police have been placed in the area and a Federation ombudsman has visited the region. The Trilateral New York Declaration of 23 October 1995 reaffirms the trilateral consultation and cooperation mechanism between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Turkey. As a concrete result of this mechanism, the Agreement on the Establishment of the Mission of Goodwill and Joint Police Forces for Action "Return" was concluded, in order to address the question of the safe and voluntary return of the displaced from Kupljensko camp to Bihac. The parties have agreed that the Ambassadorial Mission of Goodwill will be entrusted with overseeing this task and that trilateral police forces are to be engaged in the question of return. Further investigation is necessary to establish whether these measures are taking effect and whether sufficient attention is being given to the particular security problems faced by women.

79. International agencies are involved in the question of the return of the refugees. According to information received, UNHCR was scheduled to start a bus service between Velika Kladusa and Kupljensko on 30 October. This bus service is to run three times a week for refugees wishing to return to Velika Kladusa. The European Community Task Force also has an operational bus service between the two locations.

IV. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

A. Introduction

80. The Special Rapporteur visited Belgrade on 13 October 1995. This first visit was undertaken for the purpose of establishing personal and institutional contacts with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and receiving relevant information also from non-governmental organizations. The programme of the visit is reproduced in the appendix.

81. The Special Rapporteur notes that the Federal authorities offered their full support for her mandate and were ready to discuss all human rights problems openly. The authorities promised full access to all missions undertaken by the Special Rapporteur.

82. The Special Rapporteur has received information about human rights problems from various sources. During her first visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia she was not able to visit all sensitive regions and to meet in

particular with representatives of the various nationalities living in that country. Therefore the present report signals only some issues; more comprehensive analyses will be provided in a later report.

83. The Special Rapporteur takes note of two documents recently prepared by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, entitled "Memorandum on the ethnic cleansing of and genocide against the Serb people of Croatia and Krajina" (A/50/707-S/1995/907, annex) and "War crimes against the Serbs on the territory of the county of Gorazde (1992-1994)".

B. Information received by the Special Rapporteur

84. During the discussions with the authorities and the non-governmental organizations, the Special Rapporteur received information and dealt with the questions of humanitarian problems, refugees, the citizenship law, effects of sanctions, protection of minorities, children's rights, missing persons, freedom of the media and independent trade unions.

85. The Special Rapporteur informed the authorities about the data given to her by organizations of families of persons who were reported missing from Croatia during the 1991 war. She also urged the Government to extend their cooperation to the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights entrusted with the special process dealing with the problem of missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

86. The authorities expressed concern about the effect sanctions have on the living standards of the population and implementation of some basic human rights, in particular the rights of the most vulnerable groups. The authorities expressed their concern about the human rights situation in the former sectors North and South in Croatia. They also pointed out that the law, referred to above, on the temporary takeover and management of certain property adopted by Croatia is of a discriminatory and arbitrary character.

87. That question was also brought to the attention of the Special Rapporteur by the representatives of the non-governmental organizations. The human rights problems in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina were also addressed by various non-governmental organizations, as were the freedom of the media, the rights of women, mobilization and forced return of refugees, the citizenship law, and obstruction of independent trade union activities.

C. Humanitarian situation

88. The Special Rapporteur was informed that the humanitarian problems facing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are inextricably connected with the refugee crisis. According to the Federal Minister for Minorities, Yugoslavia has taken in approximately 700,000 refugees and the very numbers create, in the view of the Government, a threat to basic human rights in the country.

89. According to the Government, because of the sanctions the economy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is under financial strain, which results in its inability to provide adequate assistance for all refugees and displaced persons. A large number of people are accommodated in collective centres financed by the Government. The need for housing, education and health care is critical and the relief supplies are insufficient.

90. The Special Rapporteur was informed that the draft law on citizenship has reached the Chamber of Deputies. It would appear that the public has been given the possibility of providing their comments. On the other hand, the Special Rapporteur learned, from other sources, that the lack of clarity on the citizenship status contributes to serious difficulties in implementing human rights by various categories of inhabitants of the Federal Republic.

91. Following her mission the Special Rapporteur sent a letter to the Government requesting additional information and clarification. Concerning the legal status of refugees, in particular those recently arrived from Croatia, the Government in its reply stated:

> "Persons expelled from the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) enjoy in the Republic of Serbia the same rights as refugees from the other republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The legal status of these persons will be regulated by legislation, adoption of which is under way by the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia. Pending the adoption of such legislation, expelled persons will enjoy the same forms of protection as refugees. With a view to protecting expelled persons from the Republic of Serb Krajina in the best possible manner, the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia, respectively, have established headquarters to coordinate activities of the government organs and organizations aimed at caring for expelled persons.
>
> "Expelled persons are extended maximum protection within available material resources.
>
> "The legal acts formally regulating the status of around 200,000 expelled persons in the Republic of Serbia are expected to be adopted in the course of November 1995."

92. The Special Rapporteur also requested information regarding cases of forced expulsion from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of military-age male refugees from Croatia to Serb-controlled territories in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

93. In that regard, the international source reported, in September 1995, that "at least 50 newly arrived refugees from Krajina, who were accommodated in different locations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, have been deported by police forces and sent to Sector East for mobilization". In addition, two groups of draft-age male refugees (256 and 600-800) from that region who had already entered the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with their families and registered, were sent back to Banja Luka on 13 August 1995. As at 18 September there were another 18 cases of forced mobilization of Croatian Serb refugees in collective centres in Kragujevac and Kovin.

94. The Government provided the Special Rapporteur with the following explanation: "The Yugoslav army has not forcibly expelled men fit for military service from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Republic of Serb Krajina, nor does it intend to".

D. Protection of minorities

95. The question of protection of minorities and nationalities was brought to the attention of the Special Rapporteur by various sources as one of the most important issues.

96. International sources reported that more than 200 Croats were recently expelled from Vojvodina and crossed to Donji Mlhojiac in Croatia. On 14 August 1995, 50 ethnic Croats from Vojvodina, with Yugoslav citizenship, informed the UNHCR office at Osijek that Krajina refugees forced them to leave Serbia. The Hungarians (totalling 350,000) and other minorities in Vojvodina are reportedly being driven out of the area by the arriving Serb refugees from Krajina. According to UNHCR, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expressed a willingness to end these expulsions and the police and local human rights organizations in Vojvodina have taken action to safeguard the houses of ethnic Hungarian and Croat citizens.

97. Concerning that matter the Government in its response to the Special Rapporteur stated:

> "The Provincial Secretariat for Minorities Rights, Administration and Regulations is responsible for monitoring the rights and position of all the national minorities in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. So far the Secretariat has never been addressed by a member of a national minority requesting protection from pressures to emigrate to other State.
>
> "Furthermore, during meetings between the Secretariat's representatives and members of national minorities in various towns in the province no one has ever referred to any pressures being exerted on members of national minorities with a view to inducing them to leave the country."

98. The Special Rapporteur did not visit Kosovo and was unable, during the mission, to have direct contact with representatives of the ethnic Albanian community. However, she has received written allegations about various human rights violations which she will investigate in subsequent missions.

E. Request for establishing a monitoring presence

99. The Special Rapporteur discussed with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Federal Minister for Human Freedoms and Rights of National Minorities the possibility of opening of an office of the Centre for Human Rights to assist her in the gathering of first-hand information. The latter requested that a written proposal be submitted to the authorities for proper consideration.

100. Such a request was sent. To the date of the present report the Government has not provided an answer. In the view of the Special Rapporteur, it is indispensable to establish a presence in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in order to obtain direct access to the information concerning the human rights situation. Without that arrangement, the possibility of presenting reliable and objective reports will be seriously hampered.

V. CONCLUSIONS

101. The human rights situation in various regions of the former Yugoslavia gives reason for serious concern. Cases of mass killings of civilians, torture, other forms of harassment, looting of property, and the burning of houses are still being reported. A large number of people are unaccounted for and new cases of missing persons have been reported. More and more people are fleeing their homelands.

102. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict. The development of these children is significantly obstructed by, inter alia, suffering from war-related trauma and the instability of their lives.

103. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, of particular and immediate concern is the fate of the approximately 8,000 Bosnian Muslims, mainly males, from Srebrenica who are still unaccounted for. There are strong indications that the majority of these people have been victims of mass killings by Bosnian Serb forces which occurred after the fall of the "safe haven" of Srebrenica.

104. There is ongoing persecution and harassment of the remaining Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat minorities in Banja Luka and other areas controlled by the Bosnian Serb forces. Many Bosnian males are unaccounted for following the recent expulsions from north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

105. Serious human rights violations and violations of humanitarian law were perpetrated by members of the Croatian army during and after operation "Storm" in the former sectors North and South in Croatia. The fate of the remaining Serb population, which is composed mainly of disabled and elderly people, is of particular concern. Their basic human rights have been consistently violated. The Croatian authorities bear full responsibility for this situation.

106. The humanitarian situation of approximately 25,000 Bosnian Muslim refugees from the Velika Kladusa region is extremely difficult. Proper conditions for their return have not been created by the responsible authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Neither has the Government of Croatia provided for adequate living conditions while they are stranded as refugees on Croatian territory.

107. There is no progress on the question of the return of refugees and displaced persons in the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia. Croatia, in spite of various official proclamations, has in effect created insurmountable bureaucratic obstacles to the possible return of the displaced population from former sectors West, North and South. Recently adopted laws seriously undermine the rights of these populations. Within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina there is also no progress in the return of displaced and refugees.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is facing serious humanitarian problems, owing to the influx of over 100,000 refugees from Croatia.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

108. Respect for human rights should be given priority during and after the peace negotiations. Without genuine improvements in the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation. Effective protection of human rights in the whole region under international supervision should be firmly granted. In this regard the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should receive all necessary support and financial resources to create an adequate monitoring mechanism and to develop required advisory service and technical assistance programmes.

109. Impartial and objective information is crucial in the development of democratic societies; without it images of hate based on misinformation will be recycled. Therefore, all legal, administrative and financial restrictions imposed on the media by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina should be removed.

110. The children of the former Yugoslavia should be the first priority of all concerned parties. All the countries in the region, being parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, should strictly implement the provisions to which they are bound.

111. The de facto Bosnian Serb authorities should provide prompt access for human rights monitors to territories controlled by them, in particular to the Banja Luka region and Srebrenica. The fate of thousands of missing persons from Srebrenica requires immediate clarification.

112. The minority population living in Bosnian Serb-controlled territories should be given effective protection, including the establishment of relevant international mechanisms.

113. The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina should take without delay all necessary steps to create conditions for the safe return of Bosnian Muslim refugees from the Velika Kladusa region.

114. The Government of Croatia should promptly fulfil its responsibilities to secure the basic human rights of the remaining ethnic Serb population in all recently retaken territories. It should also remove all legal and administrative hurdles which are preventing the return of refugees and displaced persons.

115. If any human rights policy is to work, it must be formulated and implemented now, that is before any sanctions are lifted, and before major aid initiatives are launched. Reconstruction aid must be made conditional on meaningful progress on human rights. The process must also be a gradual one, each positive step from the parties in the former Yugoslavia being followed by positive measures from supporting countries.

116. All Governments and relevant authorities should extend their cooperation to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with the aim of punishing perpetrators of war crimes. There cannot be impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Without justice there cannot be reconciliation, without reconciliation there cannot be peace.

Notes

1/ The report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council pursuant to its resolution 1009 (1995) (S/1995/730 of 23 August 1995) contained a number of examples of such violations. See also the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia (A/50/648 of 18 October 1995).

Appendix

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR DURING THE MISSION (9-15 OCTOBER 1995)

Monday, 9 October

Zagreb

Mr. Pierre Jambor	Chief of Mission for Croatia, UNHCR
Mr. Byung Suk Min	Chief of Mission, UNCRO
Mr. Gerard Fischer	Head of Political and Humanitarian Affairs, UNCRO
Ms. Elisabeth Naucler	Political and Humanitarian Affairs, UNCRO
Mr. Milorad Pupovac	President of the Serb Independent Party

Tuesday, 10 October

Sarajevo

Mr. Alija Izetbegovic	President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Mirko Pejanovic	Member of the Bosnian Presidency and Chairman of the Serbian Citizens Council
Mr. Osman Topcagic	Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Hasan Muratovic	Minister for Relations with International Organizations
Mr. Skjold Mellbin	Head of mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Mr. Esad Muhibic	Federation Ombudsman
	Members of the Executive Committee of the Bosnian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights

Wednesday, 11 October

Mr. Antonio Pedauye	Chief of Mission, UNPROFOR
Major-General Rupert Smith	Commander, UNPROFOR

Pale

Mr. Aleksa Buha	Representative of the Bosnian Serbs

Zagreb

Mr Fernando Sanchez-Rau	Chief of Mission, European Community Monitoring Mission
Mr. Alex Braunwalder	Head of delegation, ICRC
Mr. Angelo Gnaedinger	Delegate General for Western and Central Europe, ICRC
Mr. Zoran Pusic	President, Civic Committee for Human Rights
Mr. Sinisa Maricic	Civic Committee for Human Rights

Ms. Veronika Reskovic	Anti-war campaign
Ms. Mirjana Radakovic	Anti-war campaign

Thursday, 12 October

Mr. Ivica Kostovic	Deputy Prime Minister in charge of humanitarian affairs
Mr. Miroslav Separovic	Minister of Justice
Mr. Hrvoje Sarinic	Chief of the Office of the President of the Republic
Mr. Peter Galbraith	Ambassador of the United States of America
General Bernard Janvier	Theatre Force Commander, United Nations Peace Forces
Major-General Barry Ashton	Deputy Force Commander, United Nations Peace Forces
Mr. Yashushi Akashi	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Ms. Zdenka Farkas	President, Apel
Ms. Zvonimir Cicak	President, Croatian Helsinki Committee
Mr. Petar Mrkalj	Executive Director, Croatian Helsinki Committee
Ms. Orhideja Martinovic	Secretary-General, Croatian Helsinki Committee
Mr. Slobodan Budak	President, Croatian Law Centre

Friday, 13 October

Belgrade

Mr. Milan Milutinuvoc	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms. Margit Savocic	Federal Minister for Human Freedoms and Rights of National Minorities
Mr. Zeinel Zeinel	Representative of the Federal Assembly Commission in charge of the implementation of the freedoms, rights and obligations of man and citizen
Mr. Pavle Todorovic	President, Federal Commission for Humanitarian Issues and Missing Persons
Mr. Miroslav Ivanisevic	Federal Minister for Labour, Health and Welfare Policy
Mr. Tomica Raicevic	Federal Minister and Chairman of the Federal Government body in charge of providing humanitarian relief to the Republic of Serb Krajina
Mr. Jovan Scepanovic	Commissioner for refugees of the Republic of Montenegro
Ms. Bratislava Morina	Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia
Mr. Misa Milosevic	Secretary-General, World Serbian Community Other representatives of the World Serbian Community
Mr. Aleksandar Radovanovic	Head of the International Department, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees
Mr. Miodrag Mihajlovic	Executive Secretary, Committee for Peace and Human Rights

Mr. Branko Brankovic	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ljubivoje Acimovic	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
Mr. Novak Pribicivic	
Mr. Sefko Almerovic	
Ms. Seska Stanojlovic	
Mr. Milan Vukovic	
Professor Zoran Pavlovic	
Ms. Sonja Biserko	
Mr. Martinovic Gojko	Independent Union
Mr. Vladan Vasilijevic	Belgrade Circle
Mr. Dusko Ecimovic	President of the Initiative Committee for the Return of Serbs to the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Natasa Kandic	Director, Humanitarian Law Fund
Mr. Goran Svilanovic	Centre for Anti-war Action
Ms. Zorica Mrsevic	Women Group

Saturday, 14 October

Field mission of the Special Rapporteur to the former Sector North - Velika Gradac and Budici; meetings and briefings with United Nations military observers and meetings with numerous local Serb residents in surrounding villages

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UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/934
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a statement by the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, dated 5 November 1995 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and the attached statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

95-34262 (E) 071195 081195

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Annex

Statement made on 5 November 1995 by the Head of State of Georgia

I was shocked and outraged by the news of the brutal assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. I keep recalling every detail of the meetings I had with this great and courageous political leader. Now, however, more important than simply expressing personal sentiments is to state that we have failed to curb the forces of darkness and have allowed them to assault heroes struggling selflessly for the achievement of the cherished ideals of humankind. I consider Yitzhak Rabin a genuine hero of our time, since for the benefit of his people and world peace he has chosen a thorny, albeit the only right road, one also involving enormous risks.

I am calling on the world community, and in particular the leaders of the States that are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to convene an emergency meeting and to discuss at the highest level measures designed to eliminate terrorism, aggressive separatism and extremist nationalism.

It is appeasement and tolerance towards the latter that have encouraged all manner of terrorists and assassins to perpetrate their heinous crimes against humanity. Now it is time to act, not just to file protests and to express sympathies. Is the barbaric murder of Yitzhak Rabin not enough for us to come to our senses, to wake up and to unite for a real fight against terrorism, extremist nationalism and fanatical fundamentalism of whatever colour it may be?

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/50/730
S/1995/935
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 55
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 3 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the section on the question of Cyprus from the final communiqué of the 11th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which took place at Cartagena, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations

95-34256 (E) 071195 081195

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ANNEX

Section on Cyprus from the final communiqué of the 11th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, issued at Cartagena, Colombia, on 20 October 1995

The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed all previous positions and declarations of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Cyprus and expressed deep concern over the fact that no progress had been achieved in the search for a just and viable solution. They reiterated their support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and their solidarity with the people and the Government of Cyprus.

They called once again for the withdrawal of all occupation forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes in conditions of safety, the restoration of the human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting for those missing.

Proceeding from the position that the present status quo in Cyprus created and maintained by the use of force is unacceptable, they stressed the need for securing compliance with and implementation of all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus. To that end they further stressed the need for the Security Council to take resolute action and the necessary measures, including the holding of an international conference and steps for the demilitarization of Cyprus, as proposed by the President of Cyprus.

Furthermore, expressing their concern at the continuing lack of political will on the part of the Turkish side, as confirmed in the report of 30 May 1994 of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/1994/629), they reaffirmed their support for the Secretary-General's efforts for a just and workable solution, as provided in Security Council resolution 939 (1994), for a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation, with a single sovereignty, citizenship and international personality and with political equality, as described in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In this respect, they decided to request the contact group of the Non-Aligned Countries actively to follow and support the United Nations efforts for the solution of the Cyprus problem.

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General Assembly
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A/50/733
S/1995/936
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 28
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 7 November 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information of the Yugoslav Committee for the Collection of Data on Crimes Committed against Humanity and International Law on the genocide against the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

95-34314 (E) 091195 111195

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ANNEX

Committee for the Collection of Data on Crimes Committed against Humanity and International Law

Date: August 23,1995
Belgrade, 10, Vlajkoviceva st.
Telephones: 330-369, 341-107
Fax: 334-133

DECAPITATION AS A MEANS OF GENOCIDE OVER THE SERBS IN THE FORMER BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The magazine "Novi voks" published in Sarajevo promoted the most extreme Moslem stances and openly called for genocide of the Serbian people.

Thus in its October 1991 issue No.3, on page 40, in a regular feature called "Documents", "Novi voks" published an article entitled "What (is to be done) with the Serbs in the Moslem Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina", which, inter alia, states the following:

> "1. Every individual Serb must be aware of the responsibility of the entire nation for his own uncontrolled acts. The punishment for evildoings committed will be collective - for one Moslem house torn down ten Serbian houses will be demolished, for one dead Moslem 100 Serbs will be liquidated. For a wounded Moslem, depending on the severity of the wound - 10 to 50 Serbs.
>
> 2. All Serbs will have 12-hour working days, the salaries of all employees will reflect the degree of their loyalty and will as a rule be by 30% below the salaries Moslems occupying the same posts receive.
>
> ...
>
> 9. A good Serb is a live and obedient Serb; or a dead disobedient Serb....".

The front page of the No.3 issue of this magazine which came out half a year before the so-called Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was proclaimed in April 1992, carried the message "Khanjar division readying" illustrated with a drawing of an

armed Moslem soldier beneath whom were the cut off heads of the Serb leaders Karadzic, Koljevic, Milosevic and Seselj with the Moslem soldier trampling Karadzic's head underfoot.

The khanjar division was a military unit composed of Moslems from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, having previously been specially trained in France and Germany, fought on the side of fascist Germany in World War II and is remembered for the war crimes committed against the Serbian people by its members. This cover page presaged what would start happening to the Serbs a year afterwards, when civil war broke out in the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.

There ensued a massive genocide of the Serbian people which involved the killing of Serbs by decapitation, as was characteristic of the period of Turkish rule in these lands, when the beheading of Serbs was common practice also. Ivo Andric, who was born here and is the only Yugoslav Nobel laureate for literature, also describes this in his books.

Following are some examples of this practice of killing Serbs by decapitation:

1. On May 26, 1992 Zvonko Zovko, from Podorasac near Konjic, a member of Croat-Moslem armed formations, chopped off the head of the Serb Sretko Kuljanin from Bradina near Konjic, who was captured in Bradina, took it to Konjic as a trophy, kicked it around the streets and in the end impaled it on a stake.

When Sretko's wife Branka, seven months pregnant, heard of this on May 28, she went into labour. However, the Moslem gynecologist in Konjic, Dr. Jusufbegovic, refused to attend to her although her waters had broken and he returned her to the Musala camp in Konjic where on June 14 1992 she gave birth to a child which, according to the findings of the Mother and Child Care Institute in Belgrade, was born with brain and optical nerve atrophy (in his second year a pronounced retardation in the development of the motor functions was established manifested as incomplete control of the head, inability to sit, stand on his legs and impaired vision with oculogyration and the inability to fixate the source of light). In the view of the physicians of this renowned child care establishment this is the consequence of premature birth and of adverse influences before birth and the prognosis is that the child will remain severely handicapped for life.

Proof: Documentation of the Committee 106/94.[1]

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[1] The documents on all cases specified in this report are kept by the Committee and shall be made available to juridical authorities. If there is interest, the Committee can forward additional information, except those protecting the integrity of witnesses.

2. After June 8, 1992, there remained only 13 Serbs, elderly men and women in the village of Ledici, the commune of Trnovo, most of whom met their death at the hands of Moslem-Croat military formations commanded by Ethem Godinjak, Head of the Secretariat of Internal Affairs in Trnovo before the war.

In this way was killed Rade Mijovcic (f. Aleksa), 70 years old. His body was found on August 7 with the head severed from the rest of the body.

The body of Savka Vasic (f. Nikola), a woman 78 years old, who was butchered on her doorstep, was also found without the head.

Members of Godinjak's unit found and arrested the last five remaining Serbs from the village of Ledici on June 18 and 19. They drove them in the direction of Treskavica and killed them on a spot called "Ledicka krivina".

During the in situ inspection carried out after the Serbs liberated this territory the beheaded bodies of all these five Serbs were found: Tankosava Mijovcic (f. Jovica), a woman 70 years old; Ljubica Vasic (f. Djura), a woman 84 years old; Ikonija Vasic (f. Lazar) a 92-year old woman: Zoran Vasic (f. Jovan), 71 years old and Milka Vasic (f. Danilo) a 56-year old woman.

Three of the heads were not found and two heads were found away from the bodies.

Proof: 228/94-30.

3. On October 5, 1992, Moslem armed formations attacked the house of Sreten Djokic in the village of Divovici near Bratunac, and two days later the bodies of the people killed in Divovici were handed over to the Serbs.

The body of Sreten Djokic was given without the head and the right arm. On the neck hung a patch of skin with hair from the top of his head.

The head and the arm were never found and the body was buried without them.

Proof: 37/94-6.

4. Nedeljko Lukic, 52 years old, was killed in the orchard in front of his house in the village of Vujicic near Brcko on September 14, 1992. His head was then cut off and taken away. He was buried without the head.

Proof: 144/95-10 and 617/95-14.

5. The Moslem Ejub Dugalic, a member of the "intervention platoon" in Slavonski Brod, forced Mirko Djeric from the village of Donja Mocila near Brod out of his house on July 12, St. Peter's Day, 1992.

He maltreated and tortured him and then returned him to the house and killed him in the bathroom. Then he cut his head off and left it in the attic.

Proof: 227/95-15.

6. Sometime in July 1992 Ivko Soldan brought two amputated human heads to Sijekovac near Bosanski Brod and showed them around Sijekovac and in the restaurant of Hazim Cutic saying that those were the heads of Serbs whom he had slain.

Proof: 227/95-15

7.The heads were also cut off of the Serbs Stojan Pudic and Perica Jovicic who had been taken prisoner by members of the 108th Bosanska Posavina brigade when the village of Bodeliste was attacked in March 1993.

According to the findings of the post mortem examiners of the corpse of Stojan Pudic his head was cut off most probably in two stages. The edge of a mechanical instrument severed the soft tissue of the neck in the first stage and in the second the body was cut through of the fourth cervical vertebra at a stroke with the edge of a heavy instrument. In the opinion of the examiners, he was probably first wounded by firearms in the lower limbs and then, as he lay there still alive, his head was cut off; the firearm wounds on the head and chest were inflicted only after the head had been cut off.

The findings in respect of Perica Jovicic were similar. He first sustained lacerations and contusions on the left side of the face and a double fracture of the jawbone and then while he was in lying position and still alive his head was cut off. The wound from a hand gun in the area of the left breast was inflicted after death i.e. after his head had been cut off.

Proof: 144/95-9.

8. Marko Ivanovic from Lisovic near Trnovo was killed by decapitation; his head was not found with his body on June 6, 1992 when the Serbs liberated this village, so that his body too was buried without it.

Proof: 228/94-26.

9. Janko Popovic was slaughtered in front of his house in Gornja Presjenica near Trnovo on July 7 1992. After slitting his throat they cut off his head.

Proof: 228/94-15.

Darko Parezanin, a captured Republic of Srpska soldier, taken prisoner on June 30, 1992 in Skoripov Gaj near Trnovo, was beheaded.

Spasoje Popovic was captured at the same time and his head was also cut off and it was never found so that his body too was buried without the head.

Proof: 228/94-32.

11. Zivko Markovic, 61 years old, was killed in the village of Mirusic in the commune of Foca.

His head was cut off and then put on a tree. This happened on May 20, 1992. His head was cut off, his left arm was cut off, he was flayed, his stomach ripped and saturated with salt.

Proof: 36/95.

12. On November 13, 1994, four members of the Army of the Republic of Srpska were taken prisoner at the Herzegovina war theater. After capture they were taken to the cellar of the Museum of the Revolution in Jablanica which had been turned into a camp for Serbs. In December 1994 they were killed.

Mirko Simic was killed by beheading. Adnan Salcin, a member of the Moslem army cut off his head with a saber. His body was exchanged in Podvelezje without the head, as was also noted in the post mortem examination carried out on March 18,1995.

Proof: 392/95 and 371/95.

13. Niko Males, born in 1931, was killed by decapitation on April 7, 1992 in the village of Rilic in the commune of Kupres.

Proof: 117/95-4.

14. In an attack on the Serb village of Brezani, the commune of Srebrenica, on June 30, 1992, members of Moslem armed forces killed 19 serb villagers. The body of Milos Novakovic from the hamlet of Cicevac was found with the head cut off.

Proof: 493/94-9, 493/94-5, 493/94-6, 493/94-7, 493/94-8 and 635/94-9.

15. Slavko Mladjenovic,(f. Ljubomir), born in 1965, was killed on August 8, 1992 during an attack on the village of Jezestice, the commune of Bratunac.

He was buried without the head which had been cut off and taken away.

Proof: 68/94 and 635/94-28.

16. In an attack launched on the village of Vrasalici, the commune of Rogatica, on November 20, 1992, Milos Kovacevic, about 65 years old, was shot dead in front of his house by Rusmir Balas. When Milos fell on the ground, Rusmir cut off his head and right arm at the elbow and his penis and then threw the head and penis away from the body.

Proof: 137/95-8.

17. Pero Ozic was killed in 1993 in Fojnica. He was first forced to dig his own grave and then killed and beheaded. Responsible for the killing is Omer Pobric, a militia commander in Fojnica before the war.

Proof: 319/95.

18. In clashes between Moslem armed forces and those of the Army of the Republic of Srpska on November 5,1992 in the area of Kamenica, the commune of Zvornik, the Moslems captured and killed by beheading Vlado Grabovica, Savo Djokic, Dragomir Bozic, Slavko Tijanic, Savo Kazanovic and Radomir Pavlovic.

Dragomir Bozic was massacred and the head severed from the body.

The head of Slavko Tijanic was found without the eyes, ears and nose, a 6 mm diameter iron bar was found in his chest, while his neck, hands and feet were tied with wire.

The head of Savo Kazanovic had also been cut off, his chest pierced with a large nail, and he himself nailed to an oak tree and crucified.

A head without the body was also found which is assumed to have belonged to Milos Grabovica.

The following were also killed in Kamenica on November 5,1992: Miladin Asceric, 28 years old; Mico Tesic, 24 years old and Nikola Milinovic, 27 years old. They were also beheaded.

Proof: 184/94-5, 184/95-6, 184/95-7 and 184/95-8.

19. In an attack launched on May 29, 1992 on the village of Bavar, the commune of Jajce, members of the Croato-Moslem army killed Stana Trifunovic, 68 years old. They slit her throat and then chopped her head off with an axe.

Proof: 116/95-12 and 333/95-1.

20. Mirko Dejanovic from Majevac was killed on May 6, 1992 in Ritesici by members of Croat armed formations from the villages of Ritesici and Brezak. They killed him by cutting his head off with a pickax. They cut off his penis and put it in his mouth.

His body had over 100 stab wounds inflicted with a knife. Jela Titura (female) from Ritesici took part in the killing.

Proof: 30/94

21. In July and August 1992 Moslem youths aged 15-16 carried around Sarajevo the heads of killed Serbs, which they found in the cellars of the part of Sarajevo called Dobrinja 5.

They played with and kicked around the heads and threw them in garbage bins.

Proof: 234/95-1.

22. In an attack carried out on June 3,1992 on the village of Brezane, the commune of Srebrenica, Moslems killed Milivoje Mitrovic and Stanoje Mitrovic. When this village was liberated in April 1993 their headless bodies were found.

Stanoje Mitrovic's throat had been slit by one "Kemo" from Pale.
Proof: 635/94-9.

23. The Moslems killed the Serb Sredoje Jovanovic from Krnice by beheading him when they attacked this village on July 5, 1992.

Proof: 493/94-13.

24. Milos Pepic from the village of Pepic, the commune of Kladanj, over 60 years of age, was killed on January 31, 1994 in the area of Banderka near Sehovici. They killed him by chopping his head off on a block with an axe.

Proof: 184/95-34

25. On September 24,1992 Moslem forces occupied the village of Podravanje in the commune of Milici, set it to fire, looted it and killed all the wounded

whom they found in the village. They killed 19 persons on that occasion and massacred their bodies.

Zulfo Tursumovic from Suceska had the severely wounded Tomislav Perendic put his head in his (Tursumovic's) lap and then slaughtered him and cut his head off.

Svetozar Jovanovic's head was cut off and impaled on a stake and Gojko Tomic was beheaded and his head thrown some 20 metres away from the body.

Proof: 184/95-34.

26. During the Moslem attack on the village of Snagovo on February 19, 1992, four villagers were killed. The head and one arm of Dobrivoje (other particulars are being established) were cut off.

Proof: 184/95-1.

27. Andja Vukomanovic was slaughtered early in August 1992 and her body was found towards the end of October 1992 in front of the house in the hamlet of Svaljak, the commune of Trnovo, with the head severed from the body.

Proof: 228/94-31.

28. After Trnovo was taken in July 1992, Serb civilians found in Trnovo and the vicinity were killed.

Danilo Misovic, 78 years old, was killed in front of his house in the village of Tosici near Trnovo. His remains were found buried under a dump heap.

These burials were organized by the so-called "Land Sanitation Commission". During in situ inspection and exhumation on August 13, 1992 his body was found without the head.

Drago Golijanin, 86 years old, was killed on July 31, 1992 on Rogoj, in an area called Rankcev Do. His remains were found on September 22, 1993, when it was established that the head had been severed from the rest of the body.

Proof: 228/94-23 and 228/94-25.

29. The Moslem Zijo Kubac slit the throat of the Serb Vasilije Lavljiv in mid-October 1993 in Sarajevo, on a spot called "Kazan", and then cut off his head with a knife and Mrs. Lavljiv was killed by Esad Tucakovic who also cut her head off. Then their bodies were hurled into the abyss.

Proof: 432/95.

30. In mid-September 1993 the Serbs Dusko Jovanovic and Ervin Nikolic were brought into the premises of the Headquarters of the tenth mountain brigade of the so-called Army of B&H in Bistrik, where they were beaten and then taken towards Bogusevac to a spot called "Kazan". There they took them into the sniper platoon dugout where they were again beaten and then Samir Ljubovic killed Jovanovic with a knife and Samir Pajkic cut off Nikolic's head.

Proof: 432/95.

31. In mid-October 1993 Predrag Salipur and his wife Katarina were arrested in their flat in Sarajevo, Borisa Kidrica street No. 3. On the orders of Musan Topalovic they were taken to the Headquarters of the 10th mountain brigade of the so-called Army of B&H together with Branislav Radosavljevic who happened to be in Salipur's flat. There they beat them.

Afterwards they were taken to a spot called "Kazan" where Nihad Hodzic cut the throat of Branislav Radosavljevic slashing it twice or thrice with a knife and then cut his head off. Then he gave the knife to Husein Hodzic who severed with it the head of Predrag Salipur who had been previously killed by Sabahudin Ziva and Omer Pendzo. Then they threw their bodies into the "Kazani" precipice.

Proof: 432/95.

32. According to the witness heard, a peasant woman 57 years old, while she had been held in prison at the Secondary Education Centre in Jajce in mid-1992, she had been made to listen to a tape describing the ordeals of Serbs at the hands of Croats and Moslems. Members of her family were also mentioned on the tape as having been slain by Croats and Moslems.

Specifically, she heard that her husband and son had been killed and that Moslems and Croats played soccer with their chopped off heads. She was made to listen to that tape every day.

After having been released from prison, she stated, she was so tormented and lost that she was unable to recognize her own son and husband when she was reunited with them.

Proof: 561/94-4.

33. Zekira Mulasmajic, an elementary school sixth grader from Novi Seher near Maglaj, speaks about the beheading of Serbs in her **Diary**.

In her entry of September 29, 1992, she wrote that the Moslems had taken Glipova Glava, and stated, inter alia:

> "... On that same day I saw something I never ever imagined I would see, a chopped off head of a Chetnik. Safet (Devletin) told Hido how some

guys had brought a Chetnik head and were playing ball with it. I and Lalo immediately went downtown to see whether that was true. And indeed some guys downtown were really carrying a wrapped head. Down by Bahro's shop they unwrapped it and I saw it... The face was black and the hair was horrible ... they say that the lad had been young, 22 at most. Nothing is surprising in this fratricidal war. There are lots of heads rolling about..."

Proof: 471/95.

34. In the area of Kruzno Groblje near Crni Vrh the following Serbs were killed by decapitation in mid-September 1992: Branislav Djuric, 40 years old, from Gornji Teslic; Blagoje Blagojevic, 46 years old and Nenad Cetkovic, 22 years old, from Jasenava near Teslic.

A mercenary from Saudi Arabia had his photograph taken with their cut off heads.

Proof: Zarko Krstanovic, **By Genocide Against the Serbs**, Belgrade, 1995.

35. In exchanges of bodies the Serb side is being given an increasing number of headless corpses, with it being established by post mortem examinations that the heads had been cut off. Thus the Moslem side handed over the headless bodies of the following persons, post mortem examinations of which were carried out on November 11, 1993 at the cemetery in Vlakovo in Sarajevo:

1. Slavko Rajcevic (f. Milan), born in 1957, from Sarajevo, and
2. Bosko Mizdrak (f.Steva), from Sarajevo.

In the vicinity of Trebinje such post mortem findings were established on March 7, August 17 and February 23, 1993 on the bodies of the following persons:

3. Slobodan Pejakovic (f. Ilija), born in 1960,
4. Zoran Radovic (f. Martin), born in 1966,
5. Petar Sekulovic (f. Danilo), born in 1960,
6. Djordje Bulut, born in 1949, and
7. Sasa Maras, born in 1973.

In the vicinity of Bileca such post mortem findings were established on July 11, 1992 on the bodies of the following persons:

8. Mile Trsic (f. Dragutin), born in 1946, from Mostar,
9. Milan Bojanic (f. Dragutin), born in 1956,
10. Luka Papic, born in 1954, and
11. Goran Mrkovic, born in 1960.

In the vicinity of Nevesinje, on March 18,1995, such post mortem findings were established on the body of:

12. Trifko Zuza (f. Dusan), born in 1947.

In the vicinity of Priboj, such post mortem findings were established on May 5,1994 on the bodies of the following:

13. Jovan Tomic (f. Steva), born in 1939, and
14. Dragan Jurkovic, born in 1965.

In Bratunac such post mortem findings were established on March 21 and 22, 1993 on the bodies of the following:

15. Bora Blagojevic, born in 1973,
16. Dragica Mastikosa, born in 1955, and
17. Miodrag Vorkapic, born in 1971.

In the village of Kravice such post mortem findings were established on March 18 and 19, 1993 on the bodies of the following:

18. Lazar Veselinovic (f. Kostadin), born in 1935,
19. Mitar Nikolic (f. Cvijan), born in 1927,
20. Kristina Eric, born in 1921, and
21. Djordje Miladinovic, born in 1936.

In Fakovic such post mortem findings were established on July 10 and 11, 1993 on the bodies of the following:

22. Ranko Rankic, born in 1933,
23. Zora Prodanovic, born in 1941, and
24. Obren Bogicevic, born in 1932.

In Zvornik such post mortem findings were established in October 1994 on the bodies of the following:

25. Cvija Kostic, born in 1927, and
26. Milorad Milic-Lazarevic, born in 1918.

Proof: Forensic findings of Dr. Zoran Stankovic, reg. under No. 471/95.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 993 (1995) of 12 May 1995, in which the Security Council asked me to report every three months from the date of the adoption of the resolution on all aspects of the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, including the operations of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). It is based on information available to the Secretariat up to 3 November 1995. My previous report was issued on 7 August 1995 (S/1995/657).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. In my reports of 1 May and 7 August 1995 (S/1995/342 and S/1995/657), I informed the Security Council of the activities of my Special Envoy for Georgia, Mr. Edouard Brunner, and the efforts being made by the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator in the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, to prepare a draft text that might provide the basis for a Georgian-Abkhaz settlement.

3. My Special Envoy visited Moscow on 28 and 29 August to meet Mr. A. A. Bolshakov, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Boris Pastukhov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, as well as other senior Russian officials. He also held extensive discussions with the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in talks convened in Moscow by the Russian Federation with the purpose of reaching agreement on the draft protocol (see S/1995/657, paras. 2 and 3). The Abkhaz side, however, refused to accept the draft protocol as a basis for negotiation. The talks had been preceded by a special session of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, which had adopted a resolution recommending that the Abkhaz delegation should act in accordance with the provisions of the "constitution" for Abkhazia adopted on 26 November 1994, which had declared Abkhazia to be a "sovereign democratic State".

4. With effect from 1 October 1995, I appointed Mr. Liviu Bota resident Deputy to my Special Envoy and Head of Mission of UNOMIG (see S/1995/839 and

S/1995/840). As outlined in my previous report (S/1995/657, paras. 8 and 9), the presence of a resident Deputy is intended to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations to find and implement a comprehensive settlement to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In its presidential statement of 18 August (S/PRST/1995/39), the Security Council took note with appreciation of that decision.

5. Following the Deputy Special Envoy's arrival in the region at the beginning of October, he established contacts at the highest level in Tbilisi and Sukhumi and also visited Moscow for consultations with senior Russian officials with the aim of reactivating the negotiation process. While he was in Moscow from 20 to 25 October, the Georgian and Abkhaz sides had a further round of negotiations, on 24 October, with senior officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Bolshakov. Mr. Bolshakov proposed to both sides that they should resume negotiations on the basis of the draft protocol. The Georgian side agreed, while the Abkhaz delegation again refused to do so, stating that it did not have the mandate to negotiate. It also made the resumption of talks dependent on the lifting of the Russian-imposed naval blockade of Sukhumi. The Abkhaz side also declined to sign a communiqué stating that both sides had met in Moscow. During the subsequent days there were bilateral contacts between the Russian and the Abkhaz delegations, and it was agreed that both sides would meet again on 30 October in Moscow. This meeting was postponed for several days and a new round of talks under the auspices of the Russian Federation began on 2 November.

Developments in the region

6. Since the issuance of my previous report (S/1995/657) there have been a number of significant political developments in the region, which directly or indirectly affect the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process.

7. Following a prolonged and vigorous debate within Georgia on the draft of a new constitution, the Georgian parliament adopted a text on 24 August. It was signed by the Head of State on 17 October. The Constitution declares the Republic of Georgia to be an independent, single and indivisible State. Internal territorial state arrangements will be defined when Georgia's jurisdiction over its whole territory has been restored. The Constitution in its entirety will come into effect after it is approved by the newly elected parliament. Parliamentary and presidential elections were to take place in Georgia on 5 November.

8. In mid-September a governmental delegation of the Russian Federation headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin paid an official visit to Georgia. The two sides signed a number of agreements. They reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and inviolability of existing borders, and condemned aggressive separatism and terrorism in any form. They expressed their conviction that an early overall political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia was indispensable and considered it of utmost importance to accelerate the organized return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of permanent domicile.

9. The Abkhaz authorities were critical of the agreements signed, in particular those on military bases and railway transportation, arguing that they seriously affected their interests and complicated the situation both inside and around Abkhazia. Later, in October, representatives of the Abkhaz side and the Russian Federation reportedly agreed on the modalities for restoring the railway line crossing Abkhazia.

III. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

A. Situation of refugees and displaced persons

10. Since my previous report, there has been no significant change in the situation of the displaced persons, including the possibilities for their voluntary return to Abkhazia in conditions of safety and dignity.

11. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that the volume of movements back and forth across the Inguri River by displaced persons has remained high, but the official Abkhaz claim that 50,000 persons have returned to the Gali district appears to be excessive and should be seen in the context of continuing commuting. There has been no return of internally displaced persons to areas north of the Gali canal, where violent incidents continue to take place. UNHCR reports that the situation in the lower security zone of the Gali district has remained stable. Many displaced persons returned temporarily during the summer months to gather the harvest but have since gone back to the Zugdidi region in western Georgia. UNHCR has further reported that in the upper security zone of the Gali district Russian and other schools have been reopened.

12. The situation in that part of the Gali district which lies outside the security zone remains very volatile. Until August, UNHCR had continued to monitor the situation in the area but stopped doing so after an incident in which Abkhaz militia fired bullets into a UNHCR vehicle. Since August UNHCR has had only an intermittent presence in the Gali district and this limits its ability to monitor the local situation regularly.

13. UNHCR has continued to carry out its humanitarian assistance programme by providing reconstruction material to the small number of returnees in Gali and Ochamchira whose houses had been destroyed. This limited reconstruction effort has now ended. No looting of the rebuilt houses has been reported. UNHCR has also distributed a number of school kits to schools in the Gali district.

B. Consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Caucasus

14. As described in my two previous reports (S/1995/342 and S/1995/657), the second consolidated inter-agency appeal, covering the period from 1 April 1995 to 31 March 1996, was launched at Geneva on 23 March 1995. In that appeal $36,473,385 was requested for United Nations-system projects in Georgia that addressed primarily the immediate needs of internally displaced persons.

15. It is encouraging that there has been a more positive response to this appeal. As at 1 September, approximately $20 million, or 52.3 per cent of the total requested, had been received from the international donor community. This substantial increase in financial assistance will enable the ongoing United Nations programmes in Georgia to continue.

C. Human rights

16. In my previous report (S/1995/657, paras. 23-28), I informed the Security Council of my efforts to find ways of improving the observance of human rights in the region, especially in accordance with paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 993 (1995). I have instructed my Special Envoy and his resident Deputy to give priority to exploring with all sides, and in particular with the Abkhaz authorities, the possibility of establishing such a mission in Abkhazia.

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

17. During the period covered by the present report, UNOMIG has continued to fulfil the tasks mandated by the Security Council, operating in the security zone, the restricted weapon zone and the Kodori Valley. As I informed the Security Council in my report of 7 August (S/1995/657, para. 56), the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG, Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard (Denmark), relinquished his command at the end of two years of duty. The new Chief Military Observer, Major-General Per Källström (Sweden), assumed his duties on 28 October 1995. The Mission continues to maintain its full authorized strength of 136 military observers, who are drawn from 23 countries (see annex I). The observers are supported by 55 international and 75 local civilian staff.

18. The disposition of UNOMIG on the ground was changed recently to allow more military observers to be positioned permanently in the security zone and to enable those elements of the military operations staff who were previously located in Pitsunda to be redeployed to Sukhumi (see map in annex II). The Chief Military Observer and the majority of his operations staff are now based at UNOMIG headquarters in Sukhumi, while a small number (mainly administrative) remain at Pitsunda. The Mission has been organized in two sectors, with headquarters at Gali and Zugdidi. The main headquarters at Sukhumi has passed to Gali Sector its patrolling function in the restricted weapon zone, while retaining responsibility for patrolling the Kodori Valley. Finally, a small forward headquarters, co-located with the sector headquarters, has been set up in Zugdidi. This headquarters will be operational only in times of crisis or to meet the needs of specific operations. The liaison office in Tbilisi continues to function with a strength of four military observers.

19. The concept of operation has remained as previously reported, despite the changes mentioned above. The six team bases (one in the Kodori Valley, at Azhara; three in the Gali Sector, at Inguri GES, Otobaya and Zemo-Bargevi; and two in the Zugdidi Sector, at Dzvari and Darcheli) continue to provide a permanent UNOMIG presence in areas that are of importance to the Georgian or the Abkhaz side and enable UNOMIG to cooperate closely with the peace-keeping force

of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The UNOMIG modus operandi has been made more flexible to allow the mounting of specific operations in response to a particular threat or situation. "Operation Gali Watch", for example, was instituted during a period of rising tension on the west side of the Inguri River in mid-September, when the Abkhaz militia went on a heightened state of alert in the wake of the agreements signed between the Russian Federation and Georgia (see para. 8 above) and an unannounced exercise by the CIS peace-keeping force, which, however, was not completed. "Operation Gali Watch" has been extended and will continue through the period of the presidential and legislative elections in Georgia.

20. Since my 7 August report to the Security Council (S/1995/657), there have been further incidents of restriction on the freedom of movement of UNOMIG personnel and of armed robberies against them. These incidents have occurred mostly in the restricted weapon zone, only on the Abkhaz side, and in particular in the Tkvarcheli area and the area south of Ochamchira. In the latter region, patrols were robbed at gunpoint on two occasions by persons unknown, while the restrictions on UNOMIG freedom of movement in the Tkvarcheli area were attributable to individuals claiming to be in authority. There was also one incident of armed robbery involving a UNOMIG patrol in the security zone and, most recently, a patrol was robbed at gunpoint by masked men in the Kodori Valley. All the incidents involving robbery were deemed to be criminally motivated. In most cases the Abkhaz authorities reacted positively to UNOMIG protests or requests for assistance. The pervasive lawlessness in the security and restricted weapon zones in Abkhazia, which the authorities allege they are unable to control, has a negative effect on the Mission's ability to meet its mandated tasks. UNOMIG has discussed the possibility of instituting joint patrols with the CIS peace-keeping force north of the Gali Canal in order to enhance the protection of its patrols.

21. Cooperation and communication with Abkhaz and Georgian authorities has continued at an acceptable level, despite some concerns voiced by both sides. From the Georgian side, there are continuing complaints that not enough is being done to repatriate the refugees and displaced persons. On the Abkhaz side, the criticism relates to the alleged failure of UNOMIG to prevent the infiltration of armed elements into the Gali region.

22. UNOMIG has continued to cooperate with UNHCR. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations includes biweekly formal meetings at which matters of mutual concern, including security, are discussed.

23. Since my last report, representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have visited Abkhaz authorities on two occasions. These visits, which also included talks with military observers in the area, were facilitated by UNOMIG. In addition, the Head of Mission and other UNOMIG officers met with OSCE representatives.

V. SITUATION ON THE GROUND

A. General

24. During the reporting period, the situation in the UNOMIG area of responsibility was tense and unsettled, and there were 15 violent incidents reported against the civilian population. These incidents were mainly robberies, but there were also occasional kidnappings. Six people were killed and 12 injured by small-arms fire. UNOMIG believes that much of the crime-related activity in the Gali region is carried out by members of the local population and it has noted a correlation between the presence of Abkhaz military reservists and increased looting.

25. There were six mine casualties (five civilians and one CIS peace-keeping force member) during the reporting period. Five of these occurred in the security zone and one in the Kodori Valley. Limited mine clearance is conducted by the CIS peace-keeping force. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has started an initiative to clear mines on a larger scale using the services of a non-governmental organization.

26. In my last report, I stated (S/1995/657, para. 36) that in spite of the control that the CIS peace-keeping force exercised over the Abkhaz militia's freedom of action, returnees were fearful that the militia would take action against them, such as confiscating their crops at harvest time. To date, however, the harvest season for nuts, corn and mandarin oranges has passed without major incidents. UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force are alert to the continuing possibility of violence.

B. Security and restricted weapon zones

27. The CIS peace-keeping force has introduced a new system of weapon permits in the security zone that enables local authorities to issue the permits. This has been instituted on the Georgian side and is expected in the near future on the Abkhaz side, where the number of local militia personnel is considerably smaller. UNOMIG has expressed concern about the local Georgian authorities' ability to control the issue of weapon permits. Although the so-called "Uberia battalion" has been disbanded, there are still many groups within the internal security forces that have the potential to be armed. UNOMIG is closely monitoring this aspect of the security situation.

28. On the Georgian side of the Inguri River there have been a number of arrests of prominent members of the former Rescue Corps (Mkhedrioni), most notably that of the Rescue Corps leader in Zugdidi. The immediate result has been a significant decrease in crime, in particular in the Shamgona area, which, as I noted in my last report (S/1995/657, para. 38), had a high crime rate related to Rescue Corps activities. However, the Abkhaz side alleges that part of the criminal activity on their side of the river is carried out by former Rescue Corps members fleeing the spate of arrests that followed the attempt on the life of the Georgian Head of State at the end of August. This applies in particular to the Primorsk region, where a sudden upsurge of incidents was reported in recent weeks.

29. UNOMIG has continued to experience difficulties in gaining access to the two heavy-weapon storage sites at Senaki on the Georgian side and Ochamchira on the Abkhaz side (see S/1995/657, para. 41). The last visits to the sites took place on 21 August (Senaki) and 31 August (Ochamchira); neither visit was successful as only partial inspection was allowed by the Abkhaz authorities and access was denied entirely by the Georgians. UNOMIG has sent letters of protest to the Minister of Defence of Georgia and to the Abkhaz authorities. Their replies are awaited.

30. As reported previously (see S/1995/657, para. 42), an armoured vehicle had been stationed for a long time outside the Zugdidi police station in violation of the 14 May 1994 agreement. The vehicle was removed in early August.

C. Kodori Valley

31. The situation in the Kodori Valley remained calm throughout the reporting period. However, two shooting incidents - both apparently without political motivation - were reported. There was no change in the Abkhaz or Svan deployment in the valley, but bilateral meetings between the two groups did not resume either. The presence of the UNOMIG team base at Azhara (see S/1995/657, para. 43) continued to have a positive influence and its base personnel continued to enjoy a good working relationship with the CIS peace-keeping force in the valley. However, the presence of UNOMIG observers at Azhara during the winter months is being reviewed as mobility and logistics will be severely curtailed by snow at that time of year.

VI. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA AND THE COLLECTIVE PEACE-KEEPING FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

32. Cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force continues to be satisfactory at all levels. Regular meetings are held to discuss problems of mutual concern and joint patrolling in the security zone has been successful, contributing to the reasonable security situation in the area.

33. Exchange of information between UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force is satisfactory, although from time to time information that should have been passed to UNOMIG has not been forthcoming. For example, on 29 September UNOMIG became aware of an exercise involving the CIS peace-keeping force in the security zone; this unannounced exercise caused alarm on the Abkhaz side, which could have had serious repercussions.

VII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

34. Emergency relief and humanitarian aid are still the predominant modes of United Nations assistance and other donors' support to Georgia. However, there is a wide range of other development initiatives. The Bretton Woods institutions are assisting Georgia to evolve from its current status of a mere recipient of humanitarian and development aid into a self-reliant and genuine

United Nations partner in development cooperation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has provided stand-by arrangements and in particular has enhanced its structural adjustment facility for Georgia, as well as providing senior monetary advisers. IMF technical assistance also covers the fields of banking, taxation and support for the introduction of the new national currency, the lari, which became the sole legal currency in Georgia on 2 October.

35. As for other United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are operationally supporting basic social services that should normally be provided by government. This support also involves capacity-building in the sectors of education, health and family planning. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are providing the Government of Georgia with policy advice for capacity-building in the economic and public administration sectors. Current UNDP programmes include an aid coordination project with the Government of Georgia, aimed at helping the authorities to mobilize resources, create systems and train staff in aid management and coordination mechanisms. UNDP is also funding public management and wheat cultivation projects. UNICEF has begun to undertake a number of projects in the field of public health, including an expanded programme of immunization in cooperation with the Georgian Ministry of Health. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to assist the Government in developing a plan for the restructuring of Georgia's industry.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

36. The Georgian-Abkhaz peace process remains deadlocked. As I have stated in my two previous reports (S/1995/342, paras. 42-44, and S/1995/657, paras. 52-56) and underline once again, it is the parties to a conflict who must make peace. Despite the numerous efforts during most of 1995 by the facilitator in the peace process, the Russian Federation, in close consultation with my Special Envoy and, since early October, his resident Deputy, the Georgian and Abkhaz sides remain far apart on the core issue of the conflict, that is, the future political status of Abkhazia.

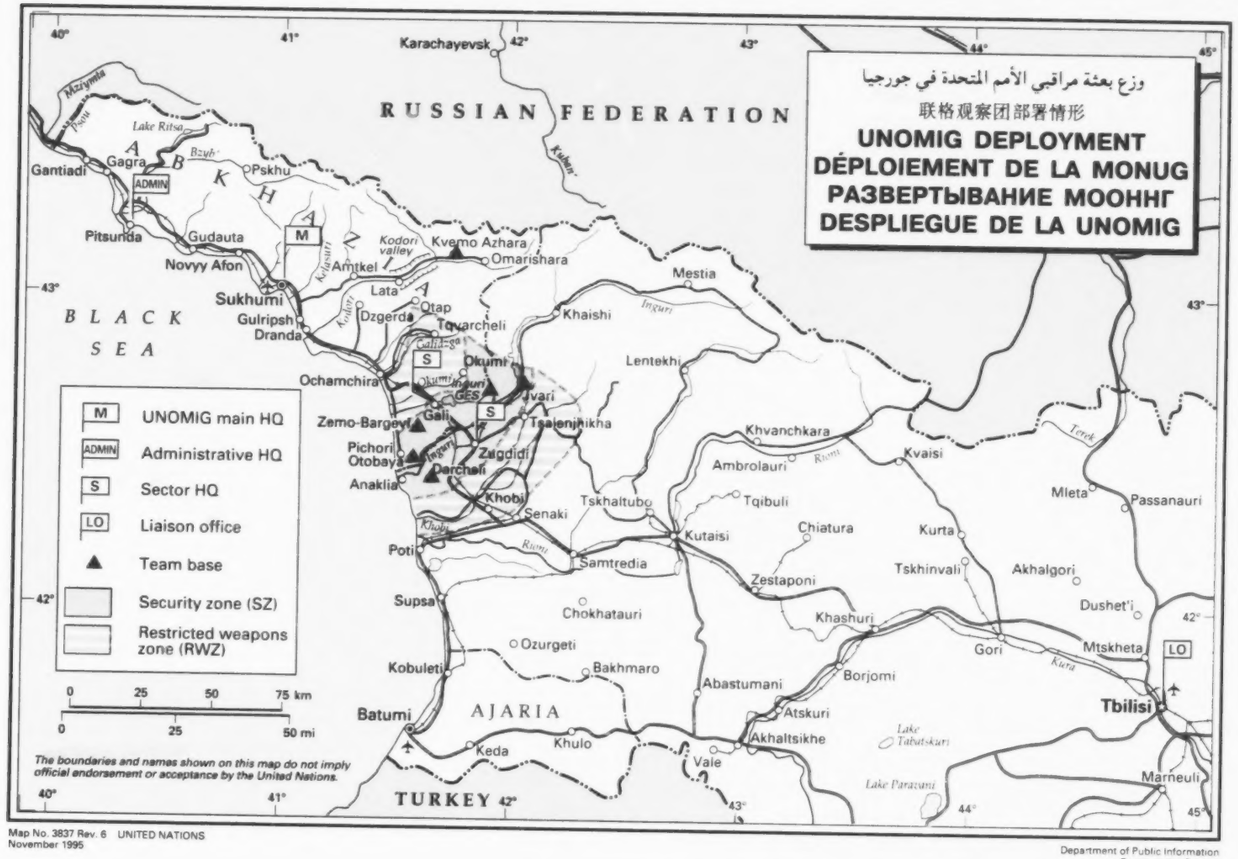
37. It appears that the continuing standstill in the search for a political solution of the conflict is due primarily to the Abkhaz side's unwillingness to offer concessions on its future political status. The Abkhaz side appears to be influenced in part by hopes and expectations that changes in the external political environment could enable it to maintain its present position in the negotiating process. I have to point out in this connection that the longer the conflict remains unresolved, the more these hopes could turn into a further isolation of the Abkhaz side, in particular in view of the international community's continuing and consistent support for the territorial integrity of Georgia. More disturbingly, the prevailing deadlock could cause a build-up of pressures that could lead to a resumption of hostilities.

38. My Special Envoy remains ready to mediate between the two sides. Meanwhile, his resident Deputy is working hard to help reactivate the negotiation process by consulting intensively with all sides, including with senior officials of the Russian Federation. However, for real progress to be achieved, my Special Envoy believes that both sides must show concrete signs that they are willing and able to reach and implement a comprehensive settlement, based on three essential elements - the safe and early return of the refugees and internally displaced persons, maintenance of the territorial integrity of Georgia and a special status for Abkhazia. In the meantime, I sincerely hope that the present Russian-led efforts to achieve a political solution will have positive results.

Annex I

Composition of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia at 1 November 1995

Country	Military observers
Albania	1
Austria	4
Bangladesh	11
Cuba	4
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Egypt	5
France	5
Germany	10
Greece	5
Hungary	8
Indonesia	6
Jordan	8
Pakistan	8
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	6
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	9
Switzerland	5
Turkey	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10
United States of America	4
Uruguay	4
Total	136


وزع بعثة مراقبي الأمم المتحدة في جورجيا
联格观察团部署情形
UNOMIG DEPLOYMENT
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUG
РАЗВЕРТЫВАНИЕ МООННГ
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNOMIG
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Karachayevsk
Gantiadi
Gagra
Pskhu
Pitsunda
Gudauta
Novyy Afon
Sukhumi
Gulripsh
Dranda
Amtkel
Kvemo Azhara
Omarishara
Lata
Otap
Dzgerda
Tqvarcheli
Ochamchira
Okumi
Gali
Zemo-Bargevi
Pichori
Otobaya
Anaklia
Zugdidi
Darcheli
Khobi
Senaki
Poti
Samtredia
Supsa
Chokhatauri
Ozurgeti
Kobuleti
Bakhmaro
Batumi
AJARIA
Keda
Khulo
TURKEY
Khaishi
Mestia
Lentekhi
Jvari
Tsalenjikha
Tskhaltubo
Tqibuli
Kutaisi
Chiatura
Zestaponi
Abastumani
Atskuri
Akhaltsikhe
Vale
Khashuri
Borjomi
Gori
Tskhinvali
Kurta
Akhalgori
Ambrolauri
Khvanchkara
Kvaisi
Mleta
Passanauri
Dushet'i
Mtskheta
Tbilisi
Marneuli
Lake Tabatskuri
Lake Paravani
BLACK SEA
M UNOMIG main HQ
ADMIN Administrative HQ
S Sector HQ
LO Liaison office
Team base
Security zone (SZ)
Restricted weapons zone (RWZ)
0 25 50 75 km
0 25 50 mi
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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November 1995
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UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 55 and 112
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 7 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention further acts of vandalism and desecration against holy places of worship in the northern part of Cyprus, which is under Turkish occupation.

In a letter dated 29 August 1995, we brought to your attention acts of desecration committed against the Churches of Our Saviour in Akanthou and of Panayia Evangelistria in Karavas. Attention was also drawn to the vandalism at the cemeteries of the Church of Our Saviour in Akanthou and at the occupation village of Gypsou. New information has been brought to our attention indicating that the desecration and vandalism of holy places of worship in the occupied part of Cyprus continues.

The Church of Agios Georgios in the occupied village of Voucolida has been taken over by a family of illegal settlers from mainland Turkey who use the church as their residence.

The Church of Agios Haralambos and the cemetery of Neon Horion Kythreas have been vandalized.

Such acts of desecration and vandalism committed against churches and monasteries in the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey since 1974 have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) over the last 21 years since the Turkish invasion and occupation. Unfortunately, the protests of the Government of Cyprus have led to no firm action taken, aimed at stopping the systematic destruction, vandalism and desecration of the cultural heritage in the occupied part of Cyprus. As a result, the Turkification of the northern part of the island continues unabated and unchallenged under the very eyes of the United Nations.

As we noted in our letter to you of 29 August 1995, there should be ways and means by which the illegal authorities in the occupied part of Cyprus can be prevented, even at this late stage, from implementing their policies of erasing all traces of cultural heritage of a civilization of millennia. In that letter we further noted that the ethnic cleansing that Turkey pursued in 1974-1975 in the northern part of Cyprus by forcibly expelling 200,000 Greek Cypriots and turning them into refugees in their own country was the first step for a policy of the Turkification of the occupied part of the island. The second step is the destruction of the cultural heritage, a policy that is being implemented so far with impunity. It is time for the United Nations to intervene effectively, through UNFICYP, to stop the Turkification of the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey by ensuring the protection of the cultural heritage going back to the dawn of history.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 55 and 112, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Cyprus to
the United Nations